

TODAY
10P

MY LIFE OF HELL WITH NORMAN MAILER

DAY ONE: Sex and alcohol, by his wife Adele PAGES 16, 17



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TODAY
10P

End mixed-ability classes, says Blair

Schools told to break with the past

By DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR today launches his Government's flagship education White Paper with a call for every school to make a determined break from the monolithic comprehensives that symbolised Labour's past.

The Prime Minister, writing in *The Times*, says he wants every school to build a distinctive character and he calls for teachers to shun mixed-ability classes in favour of groups allowing children to develop "as fast as they can".

He promises a new "fast-track" to identify the inspirational headteachers of the future. Government sources said this would be based on the proposed national head-teacher qualification.

Local education authorities will gain more funding and powers in the package, but will be subject to inspection, with the worst performers being taken over by government hit-squads.

Mr Blair says: "There are many good schools in Britain, but not enough; many good teachers, but not enough; many well-educated children, but not enough."

Teachers yesterday said they feared the balance of the Government's "pressure and support" policy was out of kilter after the disclosure that new money for buildings and equipment would be linked to academic achievement.

The plan was immediately dubbed a "cash-for-results" scheme, but government sources said schools bidding for a share of the £1.3 billion allocated in the Budget would

be judged on how they intended to use the money to raise standards. Money would not be recovered if targets were missed.

Mr Blair reaffirms his backing for Ofsted, the school inspectorate, in spite of calls from the National Union of Teachers for local authorities to have their inspection powers returned.

From next January, all education authorities will, like schools, be inspected. "Where failure is deep seated, the relevant powers of the local authority will be suspended and improvement teams sent

There are many good schools in Britain, but not enough; many good teachers, but not enough; many well-educated children, but not enough.

Tony Blair, page 20

in," Mr Blair says. All local education authorities will be asked to produce an education development plan, detailing their contribution to raising standards. This must be agreed with the Government.

Mr Blair says his "zero tolerance" of failure means that 25 "Education Action Zones" will be set up, with parents and business leaders helping to revitalise run-down groups of schools.

Raising standards will be at the heart of the White Paper, which is likely to avoid detailed proposals on changing the structure of schools, in particular how the fate of the

remaining 161 grammar schools will be decided in local votes. This and other controversial measures, including plans to speed up the dismissal of incompetent teachers, will be subject to three months' consultation.

Government sources said the exact make-up of a General Teaching Council, a new body to register and regulate teachers, would also be subject to further discussion. Indications yesterday were that teachers' unions would not automatically be appointed to the council.

The White Paper will include target-setting for every school, a new compulsory qualification for headteachers, and compulsory home-school contracts.

In a controversy that threatened to overshadow the launch of the White Paper, details emerged of the Government's plans to distribute the additional £1.3 billion for capital funding based on school development plans. These will have to include a timetable for improving results in examinations. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said the new money would be "something for something, not something for nothing".

He added: "Every school that applies for money for capital upgrading will have to submit development plans which will be conditional on showing not just how the money is going to be spent but how schools are meeting targets for discipline, results and standards."



THE Prince of Wales pretending to hit his younger son, Prince Harry, on the head yesterday after scoring a goal in a polo match at Cirencester Park Polo Club.

Prince Harry, accompanied by Tiggy Legge-Bourke, had watched his father play. The future of Prince Charles's relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles was

Prince scores a hit with son

the subject of two television programmes broadcast last night.

George Austin, the Archbishop of York, said on BBC's *The Heart of the Matter* that the couple

should be allowed a more pragmatic marriage and urged the church to make up its mind on the issue.

In *Camilla*, a 50-minute documentary on Channel 5, a friend of Mrs Parker Bowles said she was innocent of causing the Prince's marriage to collapse.

Marriage speculation, page 3

Havoc after Orange march goes ahead

By NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE

REPUBLICAN violence erupted across Northern Ireland last night after the RUC forced the most contentious Orange parade of the marching season down a Catholic road in Portadown, Co Armagh.

In a series of carefully orchestrated operations, terrorists attacked the security forces and wreaked havoc in nationalist areas to register their anger at the decision to allow the march to proceed for a second year in succession.

Within hours of the parade, a policewoman was shot and injured in a gun attack on an RUC patrol at Coalisland, Co Tyrone. In Lurgan, Co Armagh, eight masked men took over a train at gunpoint. The terrorists forced terrified passengers off the train before setting fire to the carriages, causing damage estimated at £5 million.

As nationalists went on the rampage in towns throughout the province, a suspected IRA sniper fired five shots at police officers in south Belfast last night. Nobody was injured in the shooting which took place as more than 100 nationalists gathered on the Ormeau Bridge over the River Lagan to register their anger.

The violence broke out after nationalists on both sides of the border joined together in condemning the RUC and M&M.

Movlan, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for allowing 2,000 Orangemen to march along the Roman Catholic Garvaghy Road into Portadown. Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said that he took the decision with deep regret, but said that loyalist terrorists would have unleashed ferocious sectarian violence if the Orangemen had been banned from marching down the road.

His comments came on ice with Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, who accused the RUC of caving in to the threat

of loyalist violence. At a rally attended by 3,000 people in West Belfast, he said: "Is this how Tony Blair hopes to build a new peace process in our country? The message has to go out that we are not going to put up with our people being savagely attacked."

An infuriated Breandan Mac Cionnaith, leader of the nationalist Garvaghy residents' group, ran up to the senior police officer in charge of the security operation in Portadown to condemn police conduct. As he was dragged away by armed police, Mr Mac Cionnaith, who is a local councillor, said: "You are animals. Is this the way you behave to elected representatives?"

Moderate nationalists were also appalled. Brid Rogers, an SDLP councillor for the Garvaghy Road, said: "The police action was totally and absolutely brutal. It is such an outrage that I cannot find words to express my anger."

Mrs Rogers was speaking in Garvaghy Road yesterday morning after hundreds of RUC officers dressed in riot gear had cleared the road. A security operation swung into action at 3.40am yesterday after Mr Flanagan and Dr Movlan concluded that there was no chance of a compromise between nationalists and the Orangemen.

RUC officers, supported by a fleet of armoured Land Rovers, pushed their way down Garvaghy Road to force the nationalists into their estates and away from the parade. Furious nationalists hurled a volley of petrol bombs, stones and bottles at the police lines.

The security operation allowed the Orangemen to pass along Garvaghy Road in relative peace after their annual service at an Anglican

Continued on page 2, col 4
Leading article, page 21

Charity watchdog attacks parents' group spending

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE country's largest parents' organisation has been condemned by the Charity Commission for running up excessive hotel bills after a breakdown in financial control.

The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations had been brought into disrepute and was guilty of five counts of mismanagement, the commission said. Trustees spent £30,000 last year, meeting at a three-star

London hotel, even though the charity had been offered free accommodation elsewhere. More than £40,000 was claimed every year on car travel expenses.

The charity has been riven by years of internal wrangling. The commission launched its investigation after complaints from two trustees sacked in November.

Commissioners called on the NCPTA to review its aims and direction "from top to bottom". They added: "It has allowed itself to be side-tracked by internal disputes which have created rifts within the organisation and adverse publicity outside."

Parent-teacher groups at 11,500 schools pay annual subscriptions of up to £80 a year to the NCPTA for insurance cover for their events. The charity has built up reserves of £1.45 million and has received no investment advice. It claims to represent millions of parents although less than 50 attended its last annual general meeting.

The commission said that three NCPTA officers, Margaret Morrissey, the press officer, Andrew Sneatham, the treasurer, and Belinda Yaxley, the membership secretary, "may have benefited from their position of trust".

Among "many serious and varied complaints", the commission investigated were the charity's confrontational meetings, lasting eight hours at a stretch. It was also criticised for spending £400 last year for a chain of office for the chairman.

The commission said trustees did not support Michael Pepper, the chief executive, who left last year after three months. No steps had been taken to find a replacement.

Mrs Morrissey said yesterday she had nothing to apologise for and added that none of the three trustees who became paid staff would be resigning. She said the charity had been given a good deal for using the three-star Ryan Hotel in London's Kings Cross for its meetings.



"I don't believe it - our photos have been mixed up with somebody else's"

Mars rover rolls into action

Sejourner, the first wheeled vehicle to roll out on to Mars, was preparing last night to analyse rocks and soil and send back its own pictures of the Martian surface.

Mission controllers had left the rover parked overnight at a vehicle's length away from the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft which took it to the Red Planet. They were jubilant when, after a day of uncertainty, it slowly descended a ramp and left its first tracks in the Martian dust. Page 11

Threat of chaos over BA strike

By PHILIP BASSETT AND DANIEL MCGROARY

AIR travellers face chaos this week after British Airways cabin crew said their 72-hour strike was inevitable following the collapse of talks last night.

BA will be forced to ground thousands of flights from dawn on Wednesday as each side blamed the other for the latest breakdown in the negotiations.

Robert Ayling, BA chief executive, regretted that the union was not prepared to resolve the dispute through "reasonable" dialogue. "Sadly, this means that the travel plans of thousands of our customers will be disrupted."

The airline said the union was only interested in taking discussions "backwards" while Bill Morris, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, accused the airline of "looking for a fight and desperately wanting this strike".

Cabin crew also claimed the airline was stepping up its intimidation of staff even as the conciliation talks went on in a Sussex hotel. Staff say

they have been threatened with dismissal and lawsuits, and warned they could be prevented from flying for months even when the strike is over.

The result of last night's impasse is that the airline now faces millions of pounds in lost revenue in the first of a threatened series of summer strikes. The three-day walkout will force the cancellation of around half of BA's intercontinental flights from Heathrow and two thirds of long-haul flights from Gatwick. European and shuttle flights from Heathrow are also likely to be disrupted.

Operating normally will be services with BA's franchise and alliance partners: British Regional Airlines, Bymon Airways, Logonair, Maersk Air, GB Airways, CityFlyer Express, TAT/Air, Deutsche BA, Qantas, Comair, Canadian International, America West, Sun Air and British Mediterranean. The final number of flights will not

Continued on page 2, col

Sampras joins the roll of Wimbledon immortals

By JOHN GOODBODY AND STEPHEN FARRELL

PETE SAMPRAS won his fourth Wimbledon title in five years yesterday to prove himself one of the supreme men's tennis champions of the modern era.

His straight-sets victory over Cedric Pioline of France in 1 hour 35 minutes equalled the singles total of Rod Laver of Australia in the 1960s and is only one behind Bjorn Borg of Sweden, whose five successive championships

between 1976 and 1980 are the most by any man since the First World War. The top-seeded American, who won a cheque for £415,000 in collecting his 10th Grand Slam title, said afterwards that his aim was now to exceed the record of 12 Grand Slam singles titles held by Roy Emerson of Australia.

After his victory the clinical Sampras gave a rare demonstration of public emotion. He hit his heart three times and then blew a kiss to his watching girlfriend Kimberly Williams, the American star of the film *Father of the*

Bride. She said afterwards: "It means that he loves me."

In the Third Test at Old Trafford, England are facing almost certain defeat today as they ended the fourth day needing 339 runs for victory with only five wickets left.

With the forecast for Manchester showing only a slight possibility of drizzle, it will need exceptional batting from England's tail-enders to stop Australia levelling the series 1-1 with three matches left.

Australia declared their second in-

nings yesterday at 395 for eight. Steve Waugh hit his second century of the game, the first player to complete the feat in an Ashes Test for 50 years.

In England's second innings only John Crawley was consistently defiant with 53 not out at the close as England reached 130 for five. Jason Gillespie got three wickets while Shane Warne got the other two, including Alec Stewart, who was his 250th Test victim.

Tennis, pages 25, 27
Cricket, page 30

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Tomorrow



Richard Cork on SEURAT

Wednesday

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Thursday



MOVIES: Geoff Brown on Wesley Snipes in Murder at 1600

Friday

ROCK AND POP: the latest releases

Saturday

In the magazine



ERYKAH BADU - the new Billie Holiday

Honeymoon over for Mowlam

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND AUDREY MAGEE

MO MOWLAM'S brief honeymoon as Northern Ireland Secretary came to an abrupt halt at 3.40am in Portadown yesterday when police in riot gear cleared nationalists off the Garvaghy Road.

Leaders of the Catholic residents, who had been on first-name terms with Dr Mowlam, cursed her as they were forced off the road to make way for the Orange parade later in the day.

Brendan Mac Clonnait, the residents' spokesman, spat out his words as he called on Dr Mowlam to resign. He said: "When I met Mo people asked me whether I trusted her. They said never trust an Englishman's smile. Well, now that applies to this Englishwoman."

His anger, which was in stark contrast to the friendly relations Dr Mowlam had enjoyed with the residents' group until yesterday, was a powerful reminder of the formidable difficulties faced by all Northern Ireland Secretaries. However hard ministers may try to reach out to both communities in Ulster, they soon have to make decisions which appear partisan.

With memories of her predecessors in mind, Dr Mowlam made a determined effort to adopt a more informal approach than the nine men who have held the post since 1972. From the moment she was appointed Shadow Northern Ireland spokeswoman in 1995 Dr Mowlam launched a charm offensive to woo both nationalists and Unionists.

The normally ebullient Dr Mowlam's sombre manner yesterday highlighted her deep disappointment that the parade had to be forced down the Garvaghy Road. Speaking on the steps of Stormont Castle she said: "This is a sad day for all of us. Many will be angered by what has occurred but I appeal to them to exercise restraint. Northern Ireland has seen far too many tragedies."



A protester injured yesterday in clashes with the RUC in Portadown. Nationalists were pushed back to allow the later Orange march.

Soldiers sweep aside protesters

FROM NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE IN PORTADOWN

AS DAWN broke over Portadown yesterday the biggest security operation since the height of the Troubles in the early 1970s swung into action on Garvaghy Road.

At just after 3.30am nationalists who were camped out for the night on a grass verge at the top of the road were woken by 70 armed soldiers. The groggy-eyed residents barely had time to work out what was happening when the soldiers abruptly turned

round and marched towards Drumcree church. Within seconds hundreds of RUC officers in riot gear began to clear the road.

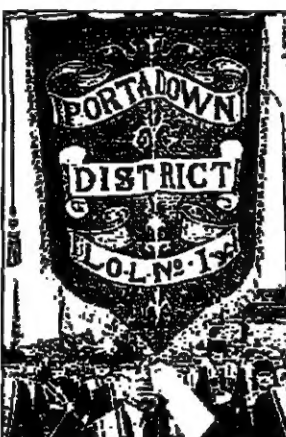
The officers, who were protected by fireproof clothing and followed by a fleet of armoured Land Rovers, swept past hundreds of residents who rushed out when news broke of the police operation. Amid a volley of petrol bombs, stones and bottles the police pressed on

to the main Roman Catholic estate at the side of the road. The police, who were supported by soldiers in huge Saxon vehicles, pushed the nationalists back into the estate to ensure that the Orange parade would be able to pass unhindered later in the day.

The violent scenes appalled a host of international observers who came to witness the police handling of Drumcree after last year's

disturbances. Eamon O'Keefe, an MP for the governing Fianna Fail party in the Irish Republic, who is the grandson of Eamon de Valera, said: "This premeditated operation shows that the threat of loyalist force will always be caved in to."

The police operation ensured that by the time the Orangemen marched along the Garvaghy Road at 1pm the nationalist protest was muted.



Orangemen parading in Garvaghy Road

Havoc after parade goes ahead

Continued from page 1

church at Drumcree on the outskirts of Portadown. Nationalists could only bang pots and shout abuse as the Orangemen marched six abreast in silence along the route they have followed since 1807.

Dr Mowlam said that she regretted that the Orangemen had been forced down the road, but she insisted that the threat of loyalist terrorism meant that the RUC had no choice. Speaking at a press conference on the steps of Stormont Castle, Dr Mowlam said: "I know many in the nationalist community will be

angered by this decision. It has been dictated by circumstances. I would have preferred it otherwise."

She tried to reassure nationalists by saying that she would try to address their concerns over the marching issue. Dr Mowlam made clear that she would implement the North report which recommended that the Independent Parades Commission should have the power to adjudicate on contentious parades.

The decision to allow the parade to proceed will have profound political consequences for Northern Ireland

and is likely to delay an IRA ceasefire for months, if not years. Nationalists, including moderates who abhor the IRA, have seen that for two consecutive years the RUC has had to force the parade down Garvaghy Road in the face of the threat of loyalist violence.

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, said last night that he was deeply saddened by the RUC decision. But his criticisms were muted, an indication that Dublin believed that Dr Mowlam had tried hard to reach an agreement. He said: "I can well understand the residents' fury

today. But... there are a number of marches and we have to continue the dialogue and achieve the accommodation that I had hoped we would have achieved today."

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, who is the local MP, rejected claims by nationalists that the march had been triumphalist. He said: "It was what they have been doing for the last 190 years. The question to ask is why is it that in the last three years deliberate attempts have been made to attack them?"

Leading article, page 21

Air travellers face strike chaos

Continued from page 1

known until the airline is sure how many cabin crew ignore the strike, and the number of management volunteers and casual staff it can hire.

The airline is to take out full-page advertisements in national newspapers showing the flights that will be operating. The information will also be on Teletext. BA says it will try to employ "short-term staff and volunteers" to keep to its schedule.

Staff claim that the airline is concentrating its efforts on recruiting a strike-breaking army rather than resolving

their dispute over restructuring their contracts. Mr Morris reported details of the breakdown of talks to his union as it prepared to hold its biennial conference in Brighton.

Mr Morris accused the airline of acting in a "bizarre" way and of trying to bully its staff into submission. "The unavoidable conclusion is that they are behaving as an employer who desperately needs a strike."

"You don't recruit a strike-breaking army in February, threaten to sue individuals for damages, close down the

union offices and refuse to release representatives from normal duty to consider your own proposals."

Cabin crew last night told how over the weekend "there have been phone calls to our homes and it has been made clear if we go sick to avoid taking sides in the strike we could be grounded for months."

One senior crew member said: "British Airways is making it clear that if you strike or go sick you can forget promotion and could even face redundancy later this year. They know many staff are torn

over this strike but they are poisoning the atmosphere."

BA denied using "bully boy" tactics and described its behaviour as reasonable. Inducements are being offered to staff to ignore Wednesday's three-day stoppage.

Secret instructions are being given to staff about where to meet so that they can smuggle safely into Heathrow past picket lines. Staff have been told they can charge up to £75 on taxis to get them to the rendezvous points. They have been warned not to wear their BA uniforms until they are inside the airport.

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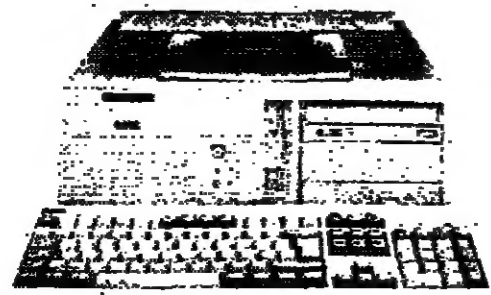
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Food guide tasters go on strike over cash

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE tasters from the Egon Ronay guides, who eat and drink their way across the land in a dedicated search of the best restaurants and hotels, have downed knives and forks and gone on strike after ending up paying their own way.

They are backed by Egon Ronay himself, who is suing the publishers of the guides, claiming his reputation as the master of culinary discernment will be damaged as a result of the dispute.

The dozen regional tasters whose reports make up the guide say that since February only a portion of the expenses for the meals they have eaten have been met.

The reporters, who are food writers and gourmands, are not allowed to notify restaurants and hotels that they are working for the guide and must visit as members of the public, paying for whatever meals they have.

They are paid £20 to £30 for each report and, until the dispute began, had the full cost of their meals reimbursed.

Trouble started almost as soon as a new team of regional reporters were recruited from among 700 hopefuls after newspaper advertisements were placed at the beginning of this year and were then given four days' training by senior inspectors on how to go about grading restaurants and hotels.



Egon Ronay: suing the guide publishers

"We asked if we could have credit cards so we wouldn't run up huge bills ourselves, but were told we couldn't do that," said one of the team of inspectors. "After two months of work we submitted our expenses."

"Our contracts said that the money would be reimbursed within 30 days, but it wasn't. We were told that the money wasn't available from the sponsors. I was owed more than £1,000 and eventually after a lot of calls I got some of it, but I'm still owed hundreds."

Some of the inspectors have now gone to the small claims courts and Mr Ronay is alarmed that it would reflect on him if the guides were poorly researched, relying on old reports.

Mr Ronay, who founded the guides in 1957 and ran them for 27 years, signed an agreement with the current owners,

Global InfoCom Ltd, last year. Mr Ronay became a consultant to the company, but he has now resigned and has issued a High Court writ against Global InfoCom seeking damages.

Among the claims in the writ are that the reputation of the Egon Ronay guides, and the reputation of Egon Ronay himself are inextricably linked and that the dispute would mean that "... the catering trade and the public will infer that the inspections on which the reputation of the Egon Ronay guides is based have either not been carried out at all or at a reduced level," it reads.

Mr Ronay said: "I do not want to sound grand. I am not wealthy like Conran, but I must stress that I'm not interested in the financial benefits," he said of his legal action. "What I am interested in is my reputation. The point is to clear my name. I don't want my name soiled. I have worked all my life to preserve my integrity and people rely on my name and have done for decades."

"If they publish in November you can draw your own conclusions. The inspectors haven't been working for weeks. The guide is nothing without proper inspections, it is a sham."

All the reports were supposed to be submitted by the end of June in order to meet publication deadlines, but the inspector—who did not wish to be named because most

people in the culinary world do not know she is a taster—said she had completed only a little over half her reports and, like her colleagues, would not be doing any more.

"I fear that they will have to use the old reports, which is not giving people proper value," she said.

Because the news of the dispute had spread to the public from the catering trade, Mr Ronay said that people would infer that inspections had either not been made or had been carried out at a reduced level.

Mr Ronay, who is in his seventies, originally sold his guides to the AA. They were then sold on to Leading Guides, who were in turn swallowed up by Global InfoCom, a subsidiary of the Richbell Group, who invited Mr Ronay to renew his involvement with the guides as a consultant.

There are strict conditions under the agreement which, if broken, mean the loss of the right to use the Egon Ronay name.

Although at present he is only suing for damages, Mr Ronay pointed out that under the agreement at least 60 per cent of the restaurants featured in the guide must have been sampled that year in order to provide an up-to-date picture.

Otherwise, the right to use his name reverts to him.

Global InfoCom Ltd could not be contacted to comment last night.

PARIS FASHIONS



An asymmetrical leather-like mini with a gem-encrusted cross and matching headband, and a long slit dress with constructed shoulder and embroidered flower motif presented in Paris at the weekend by Gianni Versace. The Italian



designer gave the first day of the 1997-98 autumn/winter haute couture collection a sharp 1980s-style edge with his top-of-the-range Atelier collection (Heath Brown, fashion editor, writes). The Paris shows continue until Thursday

TV documentaries fuel speculation that Prince may remarry

BY RICHARD FORD AND DANIEL MCGORRY

AS the Prince of Wales prepares to host a party at Highgrove last week to celebrate the 50th birthday of Camilla Parker Bowles, there is increasing speculation over the future of their relationship.

Within the last 48 hours there has been a spate of newspaper stories on the issue, largely engendered by the screening last night of two television documentaries.

The Prince's staff have always denied that there is a concerted campaign to make Mrs Parker Bowles a more acceptable future wife in the eyes of the public.

But while there is an absence of authorised pronouncements from the Prince's staff, members of his close circle have never been more energetic in promoting his cause and airing the debate that the two might marry one day.

While neither the Prince nor Mrs Parker Bowles co-operated with a 50-minute documentary, *Camilla*, shown on Channel 5 last night, some of their friends did.

Charles Benson, who has known her for 30 years, said her former husband, Andrew Parker Bowles, urged him "to put the record straight" and defend her over her innocence in the collapse of the Prince's marriage. He said: "I will not see her labelled as England's most hated woman." Friends



Mrs Parker Bowles: campaign denied

of the Prince last night agreed that he was "not unhappy" with "mature discussion" about the course his private and public life should now take.

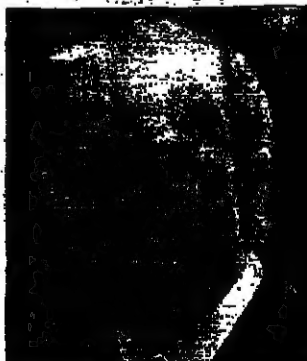
One source said: "The only absolute stipulation is that nothing should be done that does not meet the approval of the Royal Family nor carries some definable measure of public opinion. He will do nothing that could in any way jeopardise his succession."

Recent appointments to the Prince's staff have supported the idea that he should be more robust in defending his public image and in persuading his future subjects to accept the idea of a formal union with Mrs Parker Bowles. "The one thing Charles had made clear is that he will not sever relations with Mrs Parker Bowles. That is non-negotiable," the source

said. Leading clerics and politicians are increasingly publicly debating the union and the issue of whether a morganatic marriage could ever be acceptable. Such an arrangement would preclude Mrs Parker Bowles from becoming Queen as she would have no claim on the titles nor possessions of the Prince. The Venerable George Austin, Archbishop of York, discussed the subject on *Heart of the Matter* last night. "As a private person mistakes can be left behind. But he is head of the Church of England," he said the question was whether the Church needed the monarch more as its head, rather than whether the Prince needed the Church.

Constitutional experts have always ruled out any possibility of a morganatic marriage. They recall that when the possibility was aired in 1936, in relation to Edward VIII and Mrs Ernest Simpson, it was ruled out as being virtually impossible under English law.

Mrs Parker Bowles's recent car crash on her way to visit the Prince, when she called royal protection officers for help because of the risk of kidnapping, illustrates how she is already included in the royal circle. The incident was also proof of how intimate a role she plays in the Prince's life. One friend of the Prince said: "If everyone gets used to the idea of Charles and Camilla, then the public will have grown used to the idea if years hence they marry."



Lord St John in favour of remarriage



Widdicombe fears of another abdication



Austin: "pretence"

Questions for the Church

BY RICHARD FORD AND DANIEL MCGORRY

ANN WIDDECOMBE, convert to Roman Catholicism and former Tory minister, said: "A morganatic marriage solves the State's problem but not that of the Church of England. It is not only Charles who wants it all ways but the Church of England. It will have to take a view as to whether its own Supreme Governor can not only be divorced but can be married to somebody who is divorced. I hope we don't end up with an abdication. There will probably have to be a choice."

Lord St John of Fawsley,

former Conservative minister and Roman Catholic, said that although he was once against the idea of a remarriage, he now favoured it. He added: "I think that a morganatic marriage is a nonsense. What would be her official position?"

Ben Fimlott, author of *The Queen: A biography of Elizabeth II*, said a morganatic marriage was an unrealistic idea. "It would downgrade the wife, saying she is not good enough to be Queen. This would rather reduce the whole point of having a

monarch. The only real obstacle is public opinion."

George Austin, Archbishop of York, said he was in favour of a morganatic marriage. "She is the love of his life even though he treated her badly when he admitted adultery in public." He was sure the public was being "softened up" to accept her as his wife, but he said the Church must make up its mind.

"The pretence that nothing is happening at all when everybody knows perfectly well that it is a relationship, is damaging," he added.

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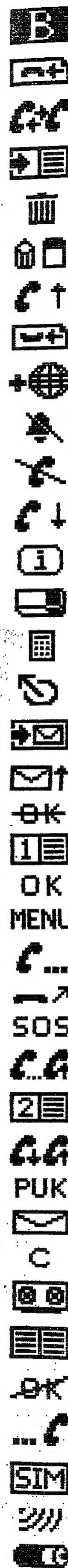
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"I cried my eyes out when I saw him at the weekend but now we are trying to deal with the practical problems of looking after him."

Big brother keeps watch with mother

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE era of "big brother" surveillance systems is helping mothers to keep an eye on their children. Nursery schools are testing a camera link that allows working parents to watch their offspring on the Internet.

The hand-size camera, fixed on a wall, relays two pictures a second to the home or office computer. Access is limited by use of passwords. It is claimed to be the first mini-camera that contains all the technology to send colour pictures directly over the Internet, and could also keep watch on the car in the garage, pets, or the house during the day.

The link's launch in Britain follows controversy in America over parents using similar cameras to monitor their nannies in the wake of a number of child murders and abuse cases. A spokesman for Axis Communications, a Swedish company with offices in Berkshire, said: "The camera can

A surveillance camera in a nursery lets working parents see their children's activities via pictures on the Internet

be used for a lot of applications. There are business uses for looking around the office. There is one in a ski resort so you can go on to the Internet to check the weather. There is one in the elephant house in a zoo in Oregon.

"No matter how positive parents feel about their children's nursery, this gives the added reassurance of being able to drop in at anytime."

Amanda Ramage, director of Teddies Nursery in Twickenham, west London, carried out the first British trial. Two cameras were mounted in the opposite corners of the main room. She said: "My reservation was that the staff would feel uncomfortable, and you might lose the natural relationship between the nursery nurse and the child because they would become too self-conscious."

"When we showed them how they looked on the screen,

they liked it and did not feel it was a form of surveillance. It is very much a fun product. I think parents will use it for five minutes at a time during their coffee break."

She said that she would install the system permanently if it was not too expensive. At present, the cameras cost £949 each. In America, nurseries charge parents extra if cameras are installed.

Office-bound parents said that the system gave them extra reassurance and enabled them to keep up with their youngsters' activities. Sara Stewart, a businesswoman with two children at Teddies Nursery, said: "I don't view it as keeping an eye on the children. If I did not feel happy with Teddies, I would not have sent them there."

"It is nice to be able to key in and just have a smile at what they are up to. Instead of having a picture of your child

on your desk, it is nicer to catch them making a cake or reading. It just makes you feel like you are more in touch."

But she said she would not pay extra for the surveillance: "If a nursery wants to offer it, I think it should be a free service because we are already paying a sufficient amount to have children looked after."

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said it would not oppose cameras if parents wanted them: "We have got absolutely nothing to hide, although I am less than clear about the point of this. If they are worried about the nursery, they should be taking other steps about it."

"If you would like to know what's going on at the nursery, rather than stay at home and watch it on the screen, there is no better way than to pop down yourself and get involved."



One mother said of the camera link: "It is nice to be able to key in and have a smile at what they are up to"

Parents demand tight nursery security

GOOD security is second in importance only to caring staff when parents come to choose a nursery or playgroup, a study by the National Foundation for Educational Research has found. Parents wanted evidence that the play-

ground was secure, with good fences, gates and locking doors, and that all visitors were carefully monitored. Good facilities, a wide range of activities and class size all came behind concerns about safety. Nearly 1,000 parents of

three and four-year-olds were questioned for the research. Caroline Sharp, of the foundation, said: "Parents talked quite emotionally. They wanted better attention to security, with higher fences and things like closed-circuit television."

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Tagging may be expanded nationwide

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE nationwide expansion of electronic tagging of offenders, including their use for non-violent offenders who could be released early from jail, is being planned by the Government in an attempt to cut the spiralling cost of imprisonment.

The prison population is rising by up to 300 inmates a week, and reached a record 61,800 last week. The Home Office's proposal rapidly to develop electronic tagging would release more space in prisons and coincides with plans by companies involved in pilot projects to launch a tag little bigger than a wrist-watch.

The latest tag, developed by Geografix in Norfolk, weighs 21 grams compared with the 42 grams of the early models, and has a diameter of about 2in. It will be introduced in the autumn and the firm hopes to export it to the United States. Home Office officials have been asked to work on detailed plans to extend tagging to cover the 14,000 criminals

given probation each year, and also the possible electronic tagging of more than 4,000 non-violent offenders who could be released early from jail.

Non-violent prisoners would be eligible for release from between three and six months before their official parole as long as they agreed to be electronically tagged.

The latest figures show that 442 offenders have been tagged since trials started in Norfolk, Manchester and Berkshire, and that only 60 had the tag revoked.

Since the Labour Government took office, officials from the Treasury and Home Office have met companies involved in tagging trials and asked for estimates of the cost of a nationwide tagging system.

Although penal reform groups criticised tagging when it was introduced by Michael Howard, they are reconsidering their position following support for electronic monitoring by Jack Straw, the new Home Secretary. He believes the technology has improved, and that the system is far cheaper than keeping people in jail. He favours a wider use of tagging as long as offenders receive help to deal with their problems, including alcohol and drug misuse. It costs an estimated £400 a week to keep an inmate in jail compared with £100 a week for tagging.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that any extension of tagging must be linked with efforts to rehabilitate offenders.



The new electronic tag weighs only 21 grams

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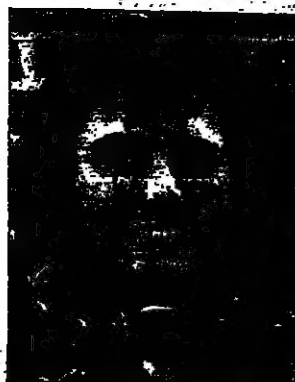
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MP splits hairs over 'First Lady's' coiffure



1994: hair jacks Blair

By James Landale
POLITICAL REPORTER

A TORY MP will demand formal confirmation in the Commons today that £2,000 of public money was not used to pay for the hair of the personal hairdresser to travel with her to the G7 summit in Denver last month.

André Suard, a stylist who works at the Michaeljohn salon in London, was flown out to the United States and booked into the Marriott hotel so that he could tend the hair of the Prime Minister's wife twice a day. Although Mrs Blair is allowed by

Whitehall rules to claim hairdressing expenses when on formal overseas trips, Downing Street insisted that she had paid the costs herself. "She is scrupulous about things like this," a Government spokesman said.

However, Michael Fabricant, the Tory MP for Lichfield, said he would put down several formal written questions to the National Audit Office and other Government bodies today to make sure that no public money was spent or was ever intended to have been spent on providing haircare. "I have no objection to the State

paying for her to have a decent haircut," he said.

"What I am saying is that it is outrageous profligacy if the State was ever expected to pay for a London hairdresser to be sent out to Denver when there are plenty of hairdressers there to deal with the problem."

He said the decision to take Mr Suard to the United States was a clear example of the Blair's attempt to develop an American presidential style of Government. "I don't think the taxpayer should fund their presidential ambitions," he said. Since her husband became leader

of the Labour Party in 1994, Mrs Blair has sharpened up her choice of clothes and hairstyle. Despite claiming in one interview that she did not want to become a "clothes horse", she began wearing smart suits from designer houses such as London's Ronit Zilkha.

Although she mainly chooses her own clothes and style, she often gets advice from her personal aides, Fiona Millar and Ron Preston. They are both close friends of Mrs Blair and work part-time for her, organising her correspondence and official visits. Mr Suard, who was unavailable

yesterday for comment, told a Sunday newspaper that he got help from a complete "makeover team" when advising Mrs Blair. The group is said to include a fashion stylist to advise on clothing and a make-up expert to advise on cosmetics.

Downing Street again insisted that none of the team was paid for out of the public purse.

Earlier this year, Mrs Blair also began training at a gym three days a week. She is believed to have employed a personal fitness trainer at the Albany Health and Fitness club in central London at an estimated cost of £50 an hour.



1997: a presidential style

University sues fertility pioneer over payments for private work

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

Foreign centres named in writ issued by Nottingham for breach of contract

AN EXPERT on fertility treatment is being sued by the university where he worked after being accused of carrying out private work without permission.

Simon Fishel, 43, who pioneered techniques to help infertile men to become fathers, resigned from the Nuture unit at Nottingham University at the end of April. He was told to leave immediately, even though his period of notice had not run out.

Last week the university issued a writ seeking the return of documents and information, and damages for breach of contract. An investigation after Dr Fishel's departure suggested that private work was being undertaken without permission, a university spokesman said yesterday.

Dr Fishel was not available for comment but denied the allegations in a statement issued by his lawyers: "I strongly deny that I breached

my contract or that I induced others to do so," the statement said. "Any external activities were carried out with the approval of my superiors and my external work was greatly beneficial to the institution."

The implication behind the writ is that Dr Fishel was earning money by providing services abroad, and not putting it through the Nuture books. The case, if it comes to court, is likely to depend on the precise nature of his contract of employment and the extent of any permission to carry on a private practice.

Nuture - Nottingham University Research and Treatment Unit in Reproduction - was set up by the university as a self-financing unit within the obstetrics and gynaecology department. It is designed to make money, which is ploughed back into the university, and has a research and teaching role. Dr

Fishel developed at Nuture a technique called intracytoplasmic sperm injection, in which eggs are fertilised by having sperm injected them, overcoming a form of infertility caused by sperm that lack the ability to penetrate the egg covering on their own.

In April he resigned from the university, saying that he was going to work at a new clinic at a private Nottingham hospital. Other members of the Nuture team have said that they will follow him.

The university's writ alleges that Dr Fishel carried out unauthorised work abroad, including Italy, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, South Africa and the United States. It accuses him of inducing other staff to break their contracts and seeks an injunction ordering him to disclose computer passwords to allow access to his files.

It seeks details of all the private work done while he was on the university's staff, to account for money received, and for secret profits and for sums earned in breach of contract. It wants a court order for repayment of the sums involved.

Dr Fishel previously worked with Robert Edwards and the late Patrick Steptoe, who were responsible for the world's first test-tube baby. Nottingham University has a reputation for taking a tough line with academics that it believes have transgressed its rules.

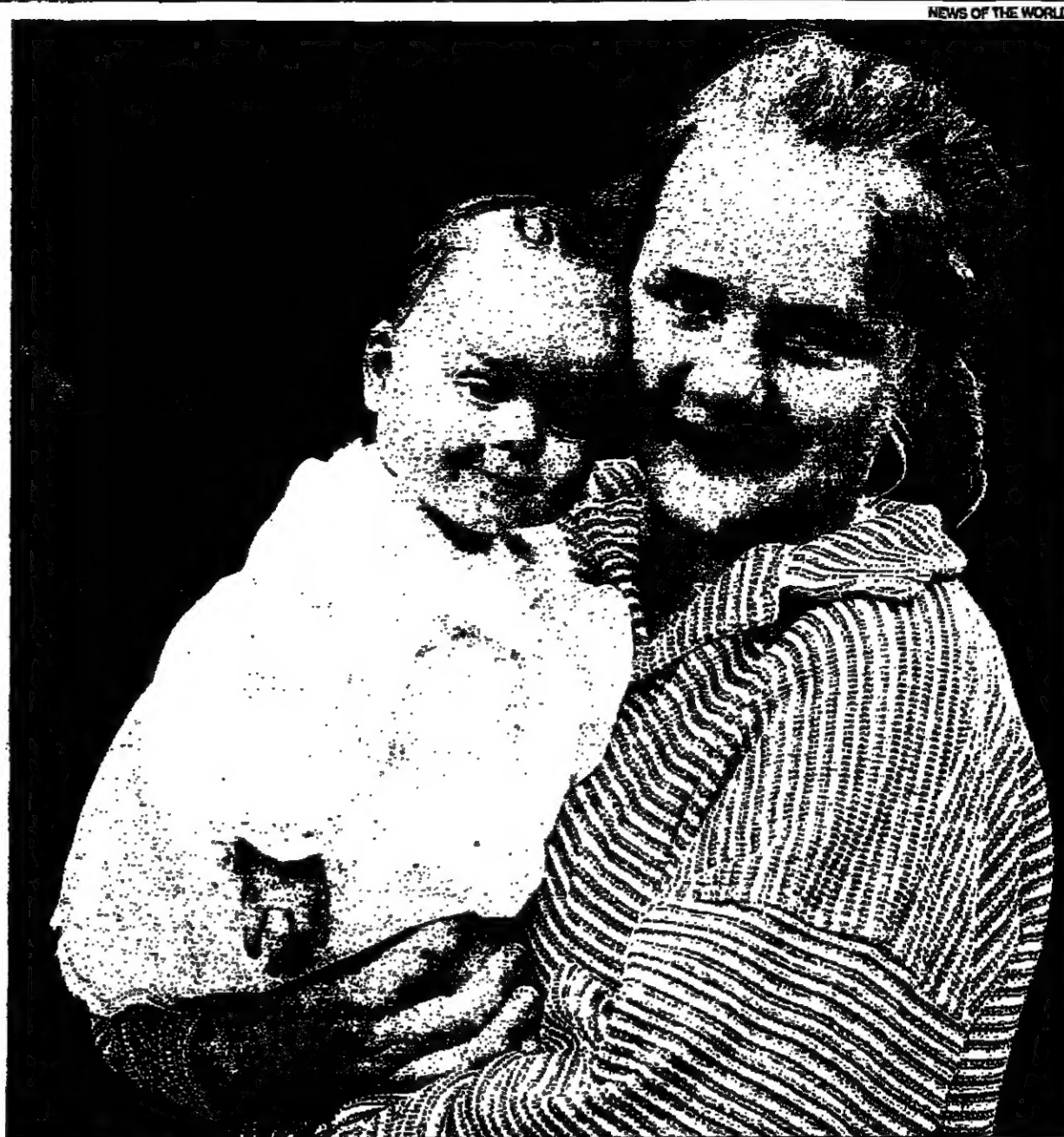
Gold-top blood plan

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE company which cloned Dolly the sheep now plans to make a key component of human blood in cloned cows.

The component, human serum albumin, is at present derived from blood donations and is used to help patients who have lost a large amount of blood. It contains no blood

cells, so does not need to be matched to the individual. PPL Therapeutics, the Edinburgh-based company linked to the Roslin Institute where Dolly was cloned, plans to carry out the research at its US subsidiary. Dr Alan Colman, Research Director of PPL, said that the object was to produce cows which carry the gene for human serum albumin and produce it in their milk.



Jenny Teague with her daughter, Sasha. Five other girls at her school have become pregnant

Mother, 12, admits 'I'm too young'

"I WISH I was 16. I'm too young to have a baby," Jenny Teague, at 12 the youngest mother in Britain, said while cradling her daughter at her parents' home at the weekend. The schoolgirl, who has Winnie-the-Pooh posters in her bedroom, gave birth to 7lb 6oz Sasha by

Caesarean section. "My one big dream is to be older," she said. Jenny spoke publicly with the permission of her father, Tom, who has not worked for five years because of an industrial injury, and her mother, Carol. The girl attends Martin Kemp Welch

comprehensive school in Poole, Dorset, where five other pupils are known to have become pregnant. School inspectors have urged the governors to improve the "spiritual, moral and social development" of the pupils. Christopher Fraser, Conservative MP for Mid-

Dorset and Poole North, is to raise the issue in the Commons. "Clearly, there is a lesson to be learnt from this case," he said. "Such an early pregnancy will have a profound effect on this girl. Society is responsible for ensuring that such things are prevented in the future."

Nerves at children's hospital licked by lollipops

SURGEONS believe they have solved the problem of calming children before operations. They will be offered raspberry, lemon or peppermint lollipops containing a sedative.

The method will spare children, doctors and parents the ordeal of an injection. Young patients are then given a full anaesthetic before going into theatre. The idea has been hailed a success by staff at the Royal Gwent Hospital at Newport, South Wales.

Dylan Prosser, the senior registrar, said yesterday: "Children are more likely to accept something fun rather than needles or foul-tasting medicines. It's a novel way of providing drugs in a non-threatening way."

The sedative lolly scheme is believed to be the only one of its kind in Britain and has so far worked successfully on 39 out of 40 children. Mark Allman, the senior pharmacist, who makes the lollies at St Mary's Day Hospital in Penarth, said: "Lollipops take the drug more effectively into their systems by absorption through blood vessels in the mouth."

"The children think they are sucking a normal lollipop and they are not aware they are being relaxed. The next thing they know they are recovering from their operation."

The bad news for squeamish adults is that the lollipops are available only to children aged three to ten. Mr Allman said: "The dose is carefully measured for younger children and differ depending on the size of the child. They would not be effective for adults."

The lollipops contain doses of Fentanyl, a synthetic opiate painkiller that acts as a relaxant before an anaesthetic is given. They originated with an American pharmaceutical firm that does not market them in Britain.

Cutting the risk of breast cancer complication

RESEARCH in Italy has found a way for surgeons to determine whether breast cancer has spread into the axilla, or armpit, without the need for surgery to remove all the axillary glands. The method was recently reported in *The Lancet* and favourably reviewed in the *British Medical Journal*.

Journal. Widespread dissection of the axilla after breast surgery is associated with lymphoedema, one of the most disabling post-operative complications of the treatment. "Lymphoedema produces a

severe painful swelling to the arm as the result of subcutaneous tissue becoming engorged by lymph fluid, which collects once the lymphatic drainage system has been disrupted by the surgeon's knife.

The Italian research has shown that if a radioactive dye is injected near the breast tumour the day before surgery, it is possible for the first gland in the lymphatic drainage system from the breast to

be identified and removed for pathological examination. The presence or absence of tumour cells in this sentinel lymphatic gland gives an excellent indication of the state of the other glands.

Trials of the technique have shown 100 per cent accuracy in women with a primary breast tumour 1.5cm or less in size, and a 97.5 per cent accuracy overall. This knowledge about the extent of the cancer's spread will allow the surgeon to determine a treatment regime that will be safe

and least likely to cause disabling lymphoedema.

There is a more than 80 per cent chance of a patient being disease-free ten years after surgery if the axillary lymph glands are free of malignant tissue. Studies have shown that the likelihood of being disease-free for ten years falls to 25 to 40 per cent if one or more of the glands has been affected by the cancer.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD


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Orbiting solar power stations, which turn sunlight into microwaves beamed to Earth, are unlikely because it will be cheaper to make solar power on Earth, Christopher Flavin, president of research at the World Watch Institute said.

become because of over-fishing. In Britain, the shark is protected only within a 12-mile radius of the Isle of Man. The team from Durham University will spend two months trying to attach satellite tags to the shark's dorsal fins. They will use a prod with a barb, or if this is too difficult, a spear gun. The tags will then track the creatures whenever they rise to the surface to feed, sending a satellite signal to researchers.

The project follows an un-

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However, we will endeavour to operate as many services as possible, and can already confirm that the following flights will be operating as normal:

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- The following specific flights to and from London will also operate as normal during this period:

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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Ministers study plan for public defenders

Critics say US-style scheme would mean a second-rate service for criminal defendants, which could lead to more being jailed, Frances Gibb reports

THE Government is considering an American-style public defender system with salaried lawyers to defend in criminal cases. At present the accused choose their own lawyer on legal aid.

Geoff Hoon, who as Parliamentary Secretary is the junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that the idea was one of several being studied by a wide-ranging review of the £1.6 billion legal aid system.

The idea would be opposed by some in the legal profession, particularly the criminal bar, who fear that it would lead to a second-rate service for defendants. However, government ministers, including Keith Vaz, parliamentary private secretary in the Attorney-General's Department, are believed to favour the idea.

Legislation for a pilot scheme of the public defender system is already on the statute book in Scotland after a rough passage during the last parliamentary session and still opposition from the Law Society of Scotland.

In its comments to the Government last year, the Law Society of Scotland pointed to American research that found "a clear and present danger that innocent people are going to prison because public defenders are so over-worked and have so few

resources that their cases cannot be thoroughly investigated and defended."

Mr Hoon, himself a barrister, said the Government would examine various types of systems overseas. "There are different ways of operating a public defender system, from salaried lawyers to having lawyers in private practice who are contracted to carry out certain functions on behalf of certain classes of defendant rather than for flat fees. You could, for instance, have a public defender system in relation to juvenile justice, to deal with all young people in court."

Mr Hoon said, however, that there were many other ways of "delivering wide-spread legal advice at reason-

able cost" that did not involve salaried lawyers. Robert Owen, QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "If you look elsewhere, the public defender system attracts the very lowest common denominator." His opposition was echoed by Roy Amlot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, who said: "Our main concern is that it would be a second-rate service and that it would be used by lawyers who could not get into a solicitor's office or into the Crown Prosecution Service."

Defendants would not have a choice of lawyer and would simply be allocated the one in their area unless the present private system was retained as well, Mr Amlot said. He was also concerned about the independence of such lawyers, and the cost of setting up the teams that would be needed to cope with the workload in areas such as London.

Russell Wallman, head of policy at the Law Society, said the organisation would not oppose the idea of a salaried legal service in principle. "We have always thought it was perfectly sensible to try experiments with salaried case-work services running alongside the private sector, as in Quebec." But the society would oppose a monopoly system. "It should be an option, running parallel to what exists, not compul-

sory," Mr Wallman said. George Elliot, vice-secretary of the Law Society of Scotland, said that opposition to the original plans for a public defender system had succeeded in ensuring that there would have to be a three-year trial before such a system was introduced.

Mr Elliot said the cost would be significant, including the cost of setting up the administration and support staff, and far greater than that estimated by the Government. He added that it was easier to see the advantages of such a system for civil cases because "of the enormous importance [in criminal work] of the perceived independence of a defendant's lawyer".

Proposals for the public defender system are being looked at alongside ways of setting up Labour's community legal service, which was a manifesto commitment. The Government is determined to curb legal-aid costs and to ensure that legal services are delivered more efficiently. Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Lord Chancellor, has appointed Sir Peter Middleton, a former senior Treasury official, to look at the financial benefits of the reforms to the civil courts proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls.

The legal aid review will report in the autumn.

The public defender is a well-established part of the American criminal justice system. In the television series *Hill Street Blues*, Veronica Hamel played the public defender Joyce Davenport, pictured with her policeman lover Frank Furillo, played by

Daniel J. Travanti. Miss Davenport rejects highly-paid private practice to represent the poorest Americans. In reality, public defenders are among the lowest paid of the legal profession and are often regarded as second-rate lawyers.



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Daniel J. Travanti. Miss Davenport rejects highly-paid private practice to represent the poorest Americans. In reality, public defenders are among the lowest paid of the legal profession and are often regarded as second-rate lawyers.

Computer sentry to check cars crossing Channel

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

EVERY driver using the Channel Tunnel and the Dover ferries is to be checked by new police computer systems watching for terrorists and drug smugglers and other criminal suspects.

The systems are linked to cameras, and are designed to read a vehicle registration plate, check it against national police computer files in London and alert a control room within four seconds. Eventually the system, known as Automatic Number Plate Recognition, could be introduced in every ferry port.

One covert system is already in use at the tunnel, with cameras at the Folkestone entrance and at Calais. The control centre is within a security base at the UK terminal. The system was introduced three months ago by Kent police, financed partly by six car hire companies concerned that car thieves could drive on to the Shuttle and into France within an hour of renting a vehicle.

Last month 195,600 cars, coaches and lorries went through the tunnel. All were filmed on closed circuit television and checked against computer files on the Police National Computer in Hendon, north London. The files include details of stolen cars, cars linked to suspects wanted by police, and other suspects whose movements detectives want to check.

Yesterday Kent police said the results of the system were encouraging. "Early indications are that it is very productive."

The first force to use the system extensively was City of London Police, which introduced it in the spring as part of its "ring of steel" designed to prevent IRA attacks. In its first four months it led to 90 arrests, including defendants who jumped bail and the drivers of stolen cars. Dorset and Sussex police also have versions of the system.

Hundreds of accident victims dying for lack of expert care

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of people are dying for lack of expert hospital treatment after accidents, according to the British Orthopaedic Association. It says there are 770 deaths a year, and thousands are left disabled when they could have become fit again if treated by those with expertise in trauma care. In some places 70 per

cent of deaths in accidents could be prevented, the association's report says: the rate nationally is about 20 per cent. Twelve per cent of those treated for serious injury suffer long-term disability because of inappropriate treatment.

The findings are based on a study of post-mortem reports following accidents. The association concludes that the severity of the injuries in many cases was not such

that the patient would inevitably have died had prompt expert treatment been given.

"These figures are based on the Government's statistics," Tom Duckworth, president of the association, said. The problem, according to the report, is that the hospitals that handle most accidents are too small to be able to have a full team of experts on hand to cope with the most serious injuries. The average

district general hospital serves a population of 240,000 and is likely to have to cope with only four or five severe accidents a year, so it is unlikely to have consultants such as neurosurgeons on 24-hour call.

As a recent survey reported by the *British Medical Journal* showed, many operations in accident and emergency units are carried out by surgeons who have never performed the procedure before. "What

is needed is a 'trauma system' comprising a full team of consultants on call all the time to cope with the really serious injuries," Professor Duckworth said.

About 30 such systems would be created to cover the entire country, each serving roughly two million people. The ambulance team would have the expertise to identify those patients needing highly specialised treatment and would take them to a

hospital where the full trauma team would be on call.

A report in *The Lancet* by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has found that more than 2,000 deaths a year could be caused by intensive care being denied. The study was based on comparing the mortality rate among those refused admission for lack of facilities with that of patients allocated an intensive care bed.

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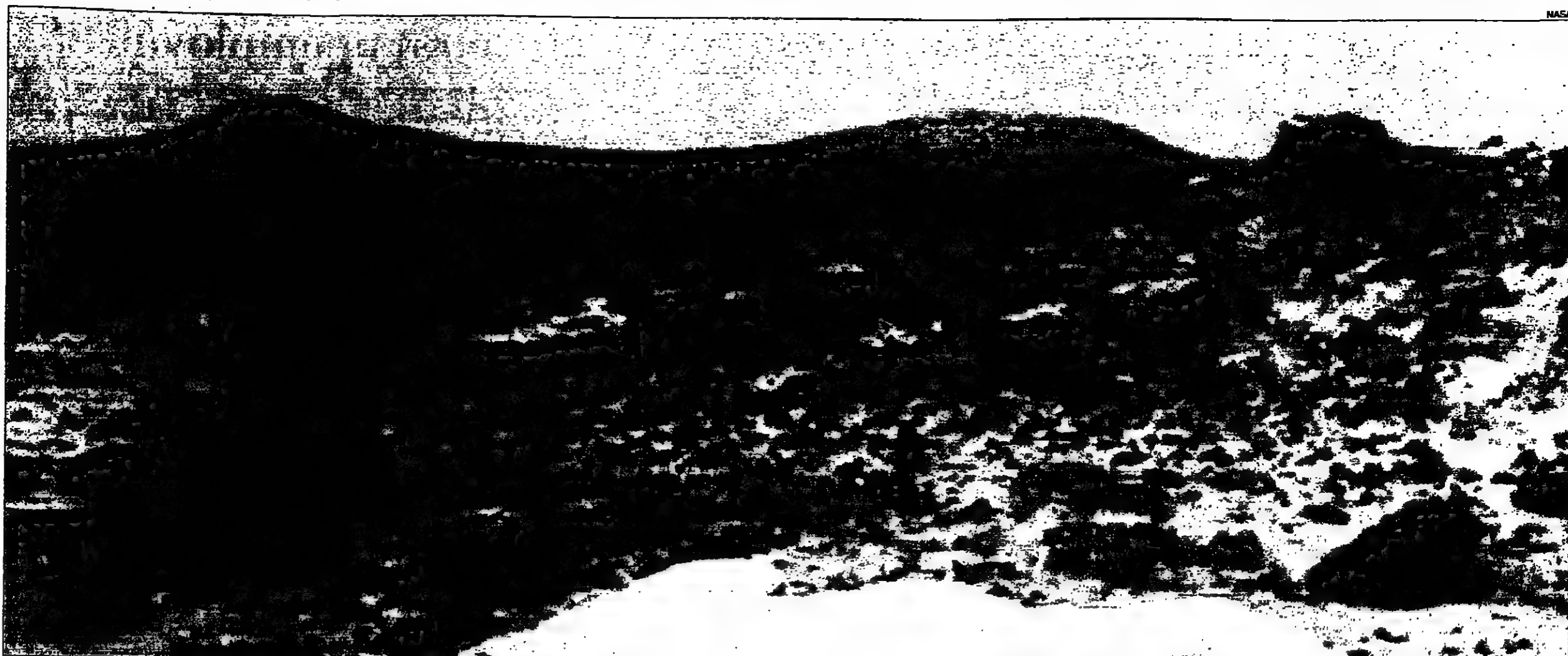
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A photograph taken by the Mars Pathfinder craft, beamed back to Nasa's jubilant scientists, shows two big hills in the background, part of the lander's airbags in the foreground and, in between, a desolate, boulder-studded plain.

Mars rover goes roll-about

Nigel Hawkes
reports on
Sojourner's
very short
but busy life

THE first wheeled vehicle to roll out on to Mars was preparing last night to analyse rocks and soil and send back its own pictures of the Martian surface.

Mission controllers left the rover, called Sojourner, parked overnight a vehicle's length away from the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft which took it to Mars. They were jubilant when, after a day of uncertainty, Sojourner slowly descended a ramp and left its first tracks in the Martian dust at about 7am BST yesterday.

...Under salmon-coloured skies, Sojourner took four minutes to descend the ramp and reached the ground just ten minutes before the Earth disappeared below the Mars horizon, cutting off contact. Communications were due to resume last night.

The first pictures of the rover on Mars showed it rolling away from the edge of the ramp, leaving clear tracks in the dusty red soil. "We just want to thank you for the lift. Now we're on our own," a



Sojourner, the Mars buggy, sets out from the lander vehicle in preparation for its scientific exploration work.

rover team member said. There were cheers in the control room of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California, as photographs of the rover on the ramp and on the ground flashed onto computer screens.

When work resumed last night, Sojourner — named after a Black reformist from the Civil War era, Sojourner Truth, who travelled the land advocating reform and women's rights — was expected to have taken its first sample of Martian soil. It should also be ready to show pictures looking back towards the lander.

which made a nearly flawless touchdown on Friday evening.

The first images produced by the lander have not told geologists much they did not already know. They look very similar to the pictures taken by the Viking spacecraft that landed in 1976 in another part of Mars. Dr Monica Grady, of the Natural History Museum,

said that her first impressions of the rocks were that some showed evidence of having been polished slightly by the wind, but that none appeared waterworn. Mars Pathfinder landed in what is believed to be an ancient floodplain.

"There is a good variety of rocks of different shapes and sizes," Dr Grady said. "Some are very interesting shapes. Once the rover gets up close, we should be able to tell a great deal from physical appearance, colour and so on." The rover carries instruments that can analyse the Martian rocks' composition.

The ability of Sojourner to move means that it will be possible to identify an interesting rock by size and colour, then approach it and measure its composition. The character of the Martian dust will be measured by the machine.

which will also study its magnetic properties by observing any dust that adheres to magnets on the lander.

Overnight, Daniel Goldin, the Nasa administrator, had announced that the lander was to be renamed in honour of the late Carl Sagan, a scientist much involved with Nasa's planetary missions. He died on December 20 last year, 16 days after Mars Pathfinder was launched.

So far, the camera has revealed a boulder-studded plain and impressive hills on the horizon. Although it appears flat, Dr Matthew Gol-

ombek, a project scientist, said that the landscape around Pathfinder is hillier than that encountered by either of the 1976 Viking landers.

The pictures of the Ares Vallis plain show a desolate reddish-brown landscape dotted with greyish rocks and a hill rising stark and barren in the background. The Pathfinder's camera also spotted the rim of a crater one to two miles away.

Earlier, mission controllers had resolved two potential problems, clearing away a partly deflated airbag that had been used to cushion Pathfinder's descent and re-establishing contact with Sojourner after contact was lost on Saturday night. Engineers do not know why contact was lost, but automatic resetting of Sojourner's modem overnight appeared to have solved whatever problem it was.

Sojourner has a planned life of only about 30 Martian days, with the first week critical for gathering data.

□ **Moscow:** Russia launched a *Progress* M35 cargo ship from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan at the weekend. It is due to dock with *Mir* today, bringing more than two tonnes of food, water, fuel and cables and other equipment needed to repair the space station damaged in a

the space station damaged in a collision with a cargo ship last month (Richard Beeston writes).

Leading article, page 21

Woman's drive brings results

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE demonstrative woman jumping up and down, yelling with excitement and getting misty-eyed over the latest success at Mars mission control, is Donna Shirley, manager of the project.

In addition to her gleeful outburst, she also let her irritation show when there was no communication with the rover vehicle. It remained stuck on top of a solar panel, blocking the sun and draining the lander's power. "It's a lazy bum and not working," she said in exasperation.

"The great galactic ghoul had to get us somewhere and apparently it decided to pick on the rover." She knows all about the rover.

which is about the size of a microwave oven, having managed the team of engineers who built it.

Then she was promoted to her present job as manager of the Mars Exploration Programme Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. That means she will oversee all the orbiters and landers sent to Mars at the rate of two every two years until 2005. By then, Nasa hopes to have a lander that can take off from the surface of the red planet, bringing the first cargo of Martian

Ms Shirley, divorced with one daughter, is in effect second in command, reporting to the programme director. She holds a master's degree in aerospace engineering and brings more than 30 years' experience to her task, including 24 years managing space projects.

With her outgoing personality, she is a popular figure at the JPL, where she is regarded as a pioneer among a small group of women who rose through the Nasa ranks to become technical managers. Prodded by her success, Nasa and the JPL are making determined efforts to bring more women into management early on.



Shirley: manages the team that built rover

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Ministers' skill in lateral thinking keeps lid on youth unemployment

The last time I wrote about Denis MacShane was in the 1980s, in martial-law Poland. He was caught up in an illegal Solidarity demonstration, lifted his hand in a V-for-victory salute and, conspicuous in his Garibaldi red shirt, was arrested by the numskulled Zomo riot police.

The world has moved on. Communism collapsed. Zomo men run pet shops and Mr MacShane changed the colour of his shirt. He is now an MP for Rotherham and a Blair evangelist. Today, however, he will again be flaunting that V-for-victory sign — this time in Dresden on behalf of the government concept of flexible employ-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

ment. New Labour, as they say, flexible labour. It seems unlikely that Mr MacShane will be arrested today even if, as he admits in his speech, he tends to massacre the German language. But the Ger-

mans, though politely listening to Anglo-Saxon visitors, are suffering from advice fatigue. Summits nowadays seem to end up, or begin, with ringing counsel to follow the American or British model. Although the Germans are in a mess, they are quite capable of improvising solutions and may even have a few things to teach us.

The Germans know something is wrong. June unemployment figures, due out this week, will not alter the generally gloomy picture. Helmut Kohl's hope that the number of jobless would dip, briefly at least, below the 4 million mark seems unlikely to be realised. Average unemployment this year is set to be

around 4.3 million, 200,000 above government predictions. The German Institute for Economics (Ifo) reckons next year it will be worse — an average of 4.6 million. That means one in eight of Germans is out of a job.

Germany, in other words, will have problems keeping down its public-sector deficit for years to come. The Ifo calculates Germany will need at least 2.3 per cent growth to make any dent on unemployment; Bonn will be lucky to achieve that.

German reformers blame this *Misere* on high labour costs. The Government, debilitated by crisis, is trying to cut them,

but the process is tortuous. Germany's famed social consensus works only with difficulty in times of quasi-stagnation and muddled leadership; to many reform has become a threat.

Yet all is not lost. Germany has its strengths and knows how to play on them. Its apprenticeship and vocational training schemes have kept youth unemployment down well below British levels.

One morning last week I followed Wolfgang Clement, Economics Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, around the Ruhr. Three months before the new apprenticeship year, his region still needs to place 18,000 young people. So he is busying around 70 com-

panies in 46 towns and refuses to leave until he has a commitment to create a new opening. Sometimes the apprenticeship is funded by other profitable companies which transfer DM10,000 (£3,400) to poorer concerns enabling them to hire a teenager. On one day he persuaded WestLB Bank to offer 20 training places, the LITU charter airline six, Metro supermarket ten, Dortmund electricity works 67.

This is leadership: 300,000 youths are looking for apprenticeships and there are only 135,000 vacancies. Each regional government is, like Herr Clement, thinking laterally to bring down youth unemployment and keep up

the flow of well-educated workers who make an export-driven economy function.

In Berlin, employment promotion companies have been set up — paying lower than average wages to the long-term unemployed for full-time jobs. Germany is in many ways a frozen society. But its institutions are capable of learning. Education ministries are altering curricula to make pupils more employable. They are starting to talk to industry. They have not quite made the next step, to give vocation schools more autonomy, but it will come.

Unions, too, are increasingly ready to surrender a day of

holiday to fund new apprenticeships. None of this will send unemployment tumbling down immediately, but one senses movement at the grassroots. The real problem strikes me as moral, rather than economic. Too much of the labour market is being driven underground. A mechanic earns DM32.91 an hour legally, with take-home of DM11.61. The black rate is DM25 an hour. Similar calculations apply to waitresses, hairdressers, gardeners and craftsmen. A feeling that the state has to be cheated to survive is more destructive in the long term than mass unemployment which, with energy and imagination, can be made to melt.

Troops in 'rape and torture' film outrage Bonn

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Defence Minister, Volker Rühe, promised yesterday to hunt down and punish severely soldiers who acted out rape, torture and murder scenes in a privately made video that has shocked the country by evoking memories of wartime atrocities.

Commanding officers will also be called to book for what Herr Rühe described as the "unbelievable behaviour of the recruits".

The tape, which will be shown today on the SAT-1 television channel, has dealt a hefty blow to the image of the German Army, which has been cautiously moving towards Balkans peacekeeping and potential combat missions. For some five decades, Bonn resisted international pressure to send troops into any kind of battle, saying that still-fresh memories of the Second World War would complicate Nato missions. Herr Rühe managed to persuade German society that the army need not be so inhibited; the Bundeswehr had proved itself a democratic force.

The tapes leaked over the weekend have undone the

publicity work and political lobbying of the past few years. One scene shows two men, back to back, chained to each other. A voice calls out: "Mouths open". A third man appears with a pistol and, apparently, he shoots through one man's mouth into the back of the skull of the second man. The shot is clearly heard. Both fall down as if dead.

In another scene, a woman — in fact a disguised soldier — drags a large wooden cross through a forest. The commentary says: "Poor old woman, she can hardly walk

US 'has plan to hold Karadzic'

Los Angeles: US Special Forces and the CIA have a secret plan to capture Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president, the *Los Angeles Times* said. It added that the plan was a response to US concerns that Mr Karadzic was a serious threat to peace in former Yugoslavia. (Reuters)

and must carry her cross." Two soldiers with automatic guns are following her. The next scene shows her crucified.

Another enactment shows a soldier, with Bundeswehr marked on his back, raping a woman dressed as a woman. Outside the tent a queue of soldiers wait their turn, munching their rations. "The queue is long," the voice-over says. "All soldiers want to mount a woman. While they wait, the boys enjoy a meal." There are many similar scenes: the murder of a man chained to a tree, the slashing of a civilian's throat, the bludgeoning of a civilian.

Officers said yesterday that although the soldiers wore skimmies in most of the film, they would be identified and traced within the next few days. The date and time of the incidents were registered on the tape, which was made in the spring of last year. The tape has been copied many times and seen by soldiers in their barracks. Apparently, one tried to make some cash by selling a copy to SAT-1.

The film was shot during the lunchbreak of training ses-



A recruit simulates the murder of two men in a scene from the video that has angered and shocked Germany.

sions held in Hammelburg Infantry School near Würzburg in southern Germany. The soldiers — between six and ten of them, says the Defence Ministry — were members of the 571 Mountain Combat Battalion which was preparing for action with the Nato-led Stabilisation Force in

Bosnia. As part of training, soldiers are taught how to deal with threatening situations or incidents in which militiamen are treating civilians brutally. But some of the soldiers, who apparently have completed their military service, apparently got carried away.

"It is essential and impor-

tant that our soldiers are realistically prepared before the start of their mission for the situation in the country hit by a civil war," Herr Rühe said. "But the limit of law and decency have to be, and will be, obeyed. It must not be tolerated that soldiers posing as civilians during their training

allow their fantasies to get out of hand."

The army is determined to prosecute the men, even though probably they are no longer soldiers. The minister said: "The participants and their superior can count on most severe consequences and possibly legal action."

Séguin takes over as Gaullist leader

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PHILIPPE SÉGUIN, the former French parliamentary Speaker and Euro-sceptic, was elected leader of the Gaullist party yesterday, five weeks after the centre-right coalition was toppled in a crippling electoral defeat.

In a show of solidarity concealing deep divisions within the Gaullist movement, M Séguin, 54, took over leadership of the Rally for the Republic party from Alain Juppé, the former Prime Minister and his sworn enemy. At a special party congress in Vincennes yesterday, M Séguin won 79 per cent of the votes, easily beating five rivals who had been regarded as no-hopers.

President Chirac, founder of the RPR, sent a message expressing his "confidence in Philippe Séguin to take the movement along the road to renewal". With the party now solidly behind him, M Séguin must be a strong candidate for the presidency in 2002.

M Juppé was M Chirac's most loyal follower, but relations between M Séguin and the President are likely to be tense, not least because the new Gaullist party leader is already discreetly manoeuvring to launch his own presidential bid.

Berisha defiant as polling resumes

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

ALBANIANS yesterday went to the polls for a second time in a week to try to decide 32 "run-off" seats which had no clear winners in the general election. Far-flung constituencies also began voting for the first time, and there is a chance of a third round. By the time the Central Election

Commission declares a final result, there is a distinct possibility that the 6,000-strong Multinational Protection Force will have begun its pullout and the international community will be past caring.

The confusion plays into the hands of President Berisha, who has still given no clear indication of when he might resign. Sources within the Organisation for

Security and Co-operation in Europe, the election advisers and monitors, said he had been telephoned by Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, urging him to push for a result. There is little evidence that Mr Berisha will comply. On Saturday he told the Council of Europe he could not accept the results in rebel-held towns.

Chorus of catcalls for modern Tosca

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A MODERN-DRESS production of Puccini's *Tosca* was all but booed off the stage at La Scala in Milan at the weekend. Some critics said the row showed that the state-funded opera house still has energy and vitality. Others said the production was a fiasco which highlighted La Scala's crisis.

The magnificent but crumbling 18th-century theatre is due to be renovated soon because it fails to meet safety standards. But *Corriere della Sera*, which is published in Milan, said it was increasingly unlikely that La Scala would be restored in time for the centenary of the death of Verdi, the other great composer associated with the opera house, in January 2001.

In the meantime, its artistic standards were uneven and financial and organisational chaos were creating uncertainty over the theatre's future, Milan critics said.

The production of *Tosca*, starring Ruggero Raimondi as Scarpia and Galina Gorchakova as Tosca, was supposed to mark the triumphant end of the season. But the decision by Semyon Bychkov, the producer, and Luca Ronconi, the director, to emphasise the "erotic and anti-clerical aspects" of *Tosca* and to transpose the setting to the early 20th century, aroused the ire of some opera-goers and resulted in loud and persistent booing and cries of "You ought to be ashamed of yourselves".

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Battered Lions denied clean sweep in South Africa
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Bosra Sham's jockey pays for defeat
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Why carp anglers will miss Herman
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JULY 7 1997

SUSTAINED BRILLIANCE SERVES UP FOURTH WIMBLEDON TITLE

Sampras in the grand manner

By JULIAN MASCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

A DISPLAY of sustained brilliance yesterday swept Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, to his fourth Wimbledon men's singles title in five years, in the process aligning him to eclipse the all-time record of grand-slam tournament victories held by Roy Emerson.

A ruthless Sampras disposed of the unseeded Cedric Pioline, from France, in straight sets with a barrage of winners from all areas of the court. At one stage, another mighty serve, which ricocheted backwards off the Pioline racket, had the Duchess of Kent reaching forward from her seat in the royal box as though on slip duty at Old Trafford. Sampras prevailed 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in another disappointingly one-sided final for the 13,800 spectators present on Centre Court.

The victory propelled Sampras, 25, into a share of



Close to perfection — 27
No 1 seeds prevail — 28
Lynne Truss — 28
Hinges hailed — 29

fourth place in the history of Wimbledon winners. His four titles leave him one adrift of Bjorn Borg and Laurie Doherty, and three short of William Renshaw's best, recorded in the last century.

Sampras, winning his tenth grand-slam event, now trails Emerson's haul by two, in advance of the US Open — a title that Sampras will be defending — in New York next month. It was his second grand-slam title of the year after his victory at the Australian Open in January. Unlike Rod Laver, another with ten grand-slam victories to his name, Sampras has never won the French Open.

Pioline could never get into the match. He conjured only two break points against the Sampras serve, but could not take them. Sampras only lost two service games in the entire tournament, only — injury stands between him and Emerson's record. "If I can stay well and healthy, I think I can do it," he said. "You can't have a more flattering comparison than to be in the same sentence with one of the greats of all time in Laver. That makes it all the more important to me."

Sampras came through via a crushing display of authority. On break point in the third game of the opening set,



Sampras advanced on Pioline's first service and dispatched a backhand missile owing everything to exceptional timing rather than brute strength. In the fourth game, Sampras aligned to cover an overhead smash before suddenly withdrawing his racket, the ball dropping inches beyond his baseline in a display of impeccable judgment.

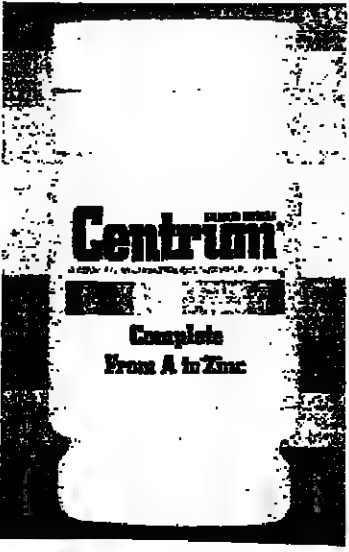
In the eighth game, Sampras gracefully rose to dispatch a high backhand volley like a salmon from a stream and, in the sixth game of the second set, Sampras consolidated a break with his ninth, tenth and eleventh aces, before Pioline spoiled the sequence by getting his racket to another unreturnable service.



Sampras, top, can become tennis's most titled champion, a tenth major victory moving him nearer the totals of, from left, Emerson (12), Laver (11), Borg (11) and Bill Tilden (10)

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Gower's top team make Test match special

Perhaps we should call it the Blewett law of television replays. When you do not need one, the director will have a choice of six and, these days, will probably show us all of them; when, however, you really need a replay, to settle a potentially match-winning decision, Blewett's law dictates that the director will not be able to lay his hands on a single conclusive bit of slow motion.

So it was on Saturday, when only one, decidedly inconclusive, replay was available of Greg Blewett's dismissal. What happened to the replays from the square on, oblique angle and stump cameras that are available for most dismissals, goodness knows. Instead, we saw the same footage over and over again.

Croft bowls, Blewett nicks

and the camera stays agonisingly still as the ball spins out of shot. By the time that the camera catches up with it, all of a split second later, the ball is clearly bouncing into Hussain's hand. The only question that this head-on replay did not resolve was whether the ball bounced on the ground, as common sense suggests, or on the extended finger of Hussain's outstretched hand, as the ever-charitable Tony Lewis postulated. "Well, he's talking about that one for ever."

David Gower said yesterday, as he ran through the Australia card after Mark Taylor's post-prandial declaration: "Now, I have nothing against unresolved talking points — they are an integral part of sport — but I would like a bit of reassurance that there is



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

some sound technical explanation for this strange lack of alternative angles. After all, there were three splendid replays yesterday afternoon, when Burcher rightly survived an appeal for caught behind ('a con-job', as the straight-talking Ian Chappell quickly admitted) and when Warne bowled Stewart.

Apart from an electronic glitch, the only other explanation is that the BBC feels that it cannot show replays that confirm that an umpire has made

a mistake. If its excellent commentary team can politely suggest that a mistake has been made, as Gower and Geoffrey Boycott also did after Hussain's dismissal yesterday, the director should be at liberty to show it.

Such quibbles apart, the BBC has had an excellent third Ashes Test, helped by results from Wimbledon that swung public attention to Old Trafford at the right time, and by some creative scheduling that had ensured impressively

comprehensive coverage. Throughout the series, there have been quiet little reminders of the top cricketing quality assembled in the BBC commentary box.

Whenever Atherton scores a few runs, up pops the table of England's leading run-makers, with Gower and Boycott in second and third place respectively. That table was not much needed in this game, but the corresponding list of Australia's leading wicket-takers was.

On Friday afternoon, the ever-enjoyable Richie Benaud noted that his third position was under immediate threat from Warne. "And there'll be some loud applause from this direction when he does, because he is simply the best young leg-spin bowler I have seen in some time," Benaud

said. Come Saturday lunch-time, there duly was.

Why the BBC's television team has the edge over their colleagues at Test Match Special and their rivals at Sky is that these cricketing qualities of yore are now matched by commentary skills.

If Benaud, who memorably spent Saturday morning comparing the footmarks on the pitch to those left by Fred Trueman in 1961, ever hangs up his microphone, the increasingly accomplished Gower is his natural successor. Boycott is that television rarity — a professional contrarian who remains good company. With the diplomatic Lewis and irreverent Chappell bating at four and five, the BBC's television commentary team remains one of the summer's great treats.

RUGBY UNION

ITV strikes deal on coverage of rugby

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FIVE days before its annual meeting, which could result in a shift of power within the English game depending on the vote for chairman of the board of management, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was able to confirm yesterday that international matches at Twickenham will be shown on terrestrial television for the next five years.

Since last year, when the RFU went out on a limb from its colleagues in the five nations and agreed television rights with BSkyB (the satellite television company partly owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), it has been anxiously waiting for Sky to announce the terrestrial partner that their contract required. That will be ITV, who have a sub-licensing deal to run concurrently with Sky's £87.5 million agreement starting in the new season.

Viewers will be able to watch England's home internationals, either as live or in an extended highlights programme. Trans' mission is likely to start at 4.30pm, with ITV reserving the right to edit out breaks in play, though they will show every piece of action.

Moreover, the involvement of ITV means that rugby will be shown on three channels — Sky, ITV and BBC, who have an agreement with the other home unions allowing them to show those internationals played at Cardiff, Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road. It allows wide coverage and will prove a significant boost to the marketing departments of the unions in their search for sponsorship.

Kick-off times for three of England's five national championship matches next season have yet to be confirmed, but the likelihood is for a 2.0, or 2.15 start, giving ITV time to prepare its programming to follow on directly from the day's other scheduled international.

Thus, for example, Scotland kick off against France at 3.0 on February 21 under BBC transmission and, directly thereafter, ITV would be ready to show England's game with Wales in full or edited form (which satellite viewers would already have seen live).

The new deal will provide continuity for ITV up to and beyond the 1999 World Cup, to which it has rights. The RFU will be equally pleased since it stands accused of misleading member clubs over the Sky agreement at the annual meeting last year.

FOOTBALL

Merson ready to leave Arsenal

PAUL MERSON is expected to complete the most surprising transfer of the summer today when he joins Middlesbrough from Arsenal for £4.5 million. Although surprised at the speed of the move and disappointed that Arsenal were prepared to release him, Merson is ready to replace Juninho at the Riverside Stadium and spearhead Middlesbrough's attempt to make a quick return to the FA Carling Premiership.

Merson, 29, who has been at Highbury since he was a 14-year-old schoolboy, has been offered a five-year contract. Juninho, the Brazil midfielder, is expected to complete his £12 million move to Atlético Madrid today and Middlesbrough can expect another big fee when the departure of Fabrizio Ravanelli is completed.

However, Merson is disappointed that Arsenal are prepared to sell him after one of his best seasons at Highbury. "I thought I would end my career at Arsenal," he said. "When they said I could leave, I felt terrible."

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, apparently feels that he can afford to lose Merson after making several summer signings. "My 15 years with Arsenal was over in 15 minutes," Merson said. "I felt terrible. They didn't make any effort to keep me."

"I've got ability and I think Middlesbrough fans will know they've got a good buy. I've played for England and know what it takes to succeed and I'm confident I can get Boro up."

Dennis Bergkamp has cushioned the blow for Arsenal supporters by signing an extension to his contract. Derby County are the latest club to make an attempt to sign Roberto Baggio, the Italian striker, according to reports in Italy. An Italian newspaper said that Derby were prepared to pay AC Milan around £10 million for Baggio.

Derby signed Stefano Eranio, the Italy midfielder, from Milan in May. However, Baggio, who has already rejected overtures from Aston Villa, is thought to favour a move to Barcelona, who are seeking a high-profile replacement for Ronaldo, the Brazil striker, who has been sold to Internazionale.

Australia took a significant step nearer to qualifying for the World Cup finals by beating New Zealand 2-0 in Sydney. Australia, who have now won 11 out of 11 games since Terry Venables became coach, will now play the fourth-placed team from the Asia group in a final qualifying match.

GOLF

Montgomery calls shots in record romp to victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

COLIN MONTGOMERIE bestirred himself in quite spectacular fashion yesterday to put down Lee Westwood, the young pretender, and win the Murphy's Irish Open with a consummate display of stroke-making that underlined why he has been Europe's leading player these past four seasons. In this form, Montgomery is irresistible, at least in Europe. His final round, a 62, set a course record and a victory margin of seven strokes was the least that he deserved.

It was Montgomery's second victory in the past three European events in which he has competed. Early in June, he won the Compaq European Grand Prix at Slaley Hall by five strokes and one week later he came second in the US Open. What he would give to maintain this form for another two weeks, until the conclusion of the Open Championship at Royal Troon, is anybody's guess.

Montgomery was on his mettle from the start of play on an overcast, humid afternoon at Druids Glen. From the moment that he birdied the first hole, it was clear that he was intent upon impressing on Westwood — at 24, ten years his junior — who was boss. The way that Montgomery ate into Westwood's three-stroke overnight lead and then surged past the promising young man resembled nothing so much as a rather sleepy lion reaching out to cuff a

playful cub. He was 15 under par at the finish.

Montgomery's golf has moved to a new level lately. It started at the Andersen Consulting event in mid-May. Under the keen eye of Denis Pugh, his coach, he has found an extra 20 yards by better striking. On the outward half, for example, he was consistently a few yards longer than Westwood. It is hard to imagine that his irons to the 5th, 8th and 9th greens could be

FINAL SCORES

Colin Montgomerie 68, 70, 69, 62, 270; L. Westwood 69, 70, 72, 270; N. Faldo 69, 73, 68, 69, 270; M. Jönsson 72, 64, 75, 69, 280; J. Woollam 71, 70, 70, 68, 280; J. M. O'Connell 74, 71, 66, 71, 280; P. Lawrie 72, 72, 69, 70, 281; P. Walton 75, 69, 70, 69, 283; P. Harrington 71, 72, 71, 69, 283; P. Hedblom 72, 73, 68, 70, 284; D. Chopra 71, 69, 71, 72, 284; D. Campbell 71, 74, 68, 70, 284; R. Palmer 72, 72, 72, 68, 284; D. Clarke 72, 73, 71, 68, 284; V. Phillips 72, 73, 71, 68, 284; R. Arnold 72, 67, 70, 68, 284; E. Romario 72, 67, 70, 68, 284; L. J. van der Merwe 71, 71, 72, 70, 285; R. Muntz 70, 73, 71, 71, 285; D. Gray 71, 69, 70, 68, 285; B. Lane 73, 71, 69, 73.

have been bettered and all three were followed by single putts.

Equally, the nerve and accuracy he demonstrated in fading his drive on the 7th so that it cleared the second bunker and then bounded on towards the green, demonstrated confidence and skill of the highest order. Ally this play to good putting — he took

only 28 — and it is evident how Montgomery went round in nine under par.

It was always likely that Westwood would find it hard to cope with the rumbustious Irish crowds and the pressure of having six past and present Ryder Cup players within four groups of him. He is young, after all. Having taken three putts at the 1st, he must have felt as though he was in the eye of a storm as he watched Montgomery play so beautifully alongside him.

A 72, one over par, was not a sad collapse and, as well as his eight-under-par total of 276 making sure of second place here, it made sure of his position in the Europe Ryder Cup team in September. "All credit to Lee," Montgomery said. "He will be an asset in Valderrama."

Montgomery has always had rabbit ears — listening for crowd noises and looking for distractions and, as he walked on to the 8th tee yesterday, he stopped and pointed. "There's a marshal with a camera," he said, loudly. "That's unbelievable. There's a board saying no cameras and you've got one."

It is too much to expect him not to observe such things. Perhaps the best that can be done is to hope that such distractions will no longer light the blue touchpaper of his temper so that in no time he is florid-faced with steam coming out of his ears.



Montgomery claims the Irish Open trophy after his course record 62 yesterday.

Indeed, perhaps he is approaching this calmer state. Yesterday he was sufficiently relaxed on his walk to the 10th tee to come over to a journalist and recount the incident two holes earlier. "We've just had a beller," he said, grinning. "A marshal with a camera." He shook his head and walked off.

Montgomery's perfor-

mance in taming one of the more difficult golf courses in Europe overshadowed a 69 by Ian Woollam, a 68 by Nick Faldo, which took him to six under par and third place, as well as a bizarre incident that befell Fanny Sunesson, Faldo's caddy. She walked into an advertising board between the 3rd green and the 4th tee and was temporarily

disorientated. Otherwise, it was the other players who were disorientated by the quality of Montgomery's play.

On days such as this he makes the game look easy. "I am savouring this win," he said. "Since Portugal in 1989 [when he won by 11 strokes] this is the best four rounds I have put together in Europe."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos and Hull spread the word

By A CORRESPONDENT

TWO events, which took place hundreds of miles apart over the weekend, have given Super League a much-needed boost. The first was the stunning win by London Broncos over Wigan at the Stoop and the second was the clinching of the first division championship by Hull Sharks at Huddersfield.

Establishing a successful side in the capital has long been the Holy Grail as far as the rugby league authorities have been concerned, because they felt that such a team would help to dismiss the perception that league is essentially a northern sport. For 17 years, since the establishment of Fulham, rugby league

in London has had a chequered career.

However, in their present guise, the Broncos have made huge strides over the past two seasons, repaying the faith shown in them by the Rugby Football League (RFL) in finishing fourth in the inaugural season of Super League.

They have shown, by some gritty performances this season, that last year was not just a flash in the pan. The win over Wigan on Friday not only put them into second place, the highest showing of any London league side, but also showed that they are a match for anyone, certainly at home.

Having established their credentials on the field, they now have to do the business off it.

Crowds have been disappointing this season, but their latest success should give the marketing department all the ammunition it needs to give the team the support that they deserve.

The fact that there is a successful rugby league side in London should also give Super League's marketing arm a great boost and instil in the sport confidence for further well-planned expansion.

The success of Hull Sharks in gaining entry to Super League will have the financial controllers at many clubs rubbing their hands.

Hull is a big city with potentially huge support, and if Tim Wilby, the Sharks' chairman, who also owns Hull City Football Club,

realises his ambitions, then rugby league will be part of a huge sporting club with the facilities and backing to make them a real force in the game.

If rugby league is to have a future, it needs to have an elite competition made up of clubs from large catchment areas such as these.

The original concept of Super League called for mergers, but this was met with howls of derision by the traditionalists. Although the issue was not forced through, it could be back on the agenda again. This time, it will be the smaller clubs who will actively pursue mergers to avoid being left behind as Super League becomes a place for only the rich and powerful.

ATHLETICS

Black realistic over chances for Athens

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN STOCKHOLM

ROGER BLACK faced up yesterday to what he described as "the reality of 400 metres running in Britain". The reality is that Black's prospects of being picked to contest the individual event at the world championships in Athens next month look borderline, such is the strength of his British opposition.

The British trials for Athens begin on Friday with Black, Britain's most successful athlete at the Olympic Games last year, a doubtful starter. Although he won the 400 metres at the European Cup in Munich two weeks ago, he has not been happy with his form, which dipped dramatically at the British grand prix in Sheffield eight days ago, when he was seventh.

Finishing fourth Briton, behind Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson, Black recorded 45.70sec, more than a second outside his British record. He is awaiting the result of blood tests, his greatest worry being that the virus that wiped out his 1993 season, and effectively cost him his European title in 1994, may have returned.

Black, who said that he had not trained since Sheffield, is planning a run-out on Wednesday to gauge whether he should attempt racing this weekend, but he said yesterday: "I do not think I will be at the trials. I have given notice to the selectors of what is going on with me."

However, Black recognised that the recent form shown by Thomas and Richardson would give them a stronger claim than his one, should either fail to fill one of the two

automatic qualifying places. If Black sits out the trial, his chances of claiming the third place would depend on Baulch finishing outside the first two. "I can only hope that Iwan and Mark stay healthy, run the trials, and finish 1-2," Black said. "That is my only chance for an individual place."

Should he fail to secure an individual spot, a place would have to be held open for Black in the relay squad for as long as he needs until the Athens deadline. Black is, after all, due to make his debut as the Great Britain men's team captain in Athens and he won two Olympic silver medals in Atlanta, in the individual event and relay.

Sally Gunnell raised doubts over her participation in Athens after a heavy defeat in the 400 metres hurdles in Oslo on Friday, but she said at the weekend that she had made up her mind to go. Steve Backley, the European javelin champion, will also appear at the trials, having returned to training after suffering swollen glands which prompted him to pull out of Oslo and the grand prix here this evening. So, too, will Bob Weir, who broke Bill Tancred's 23-year-old British discus record with 64.24 metres in California on Thursday.

If the weather holds, Stockholm could witness the meeting of the season so far — a special K night. World records are being attempted by Komen (5,000 metres) Kipketer (800 metres) and Kiptanui (steeplechase), and a British one by Kelly (Holmes) in the 800 metres.

Doohan closes in on world title

MICHAEL DOOHAN moved a step nearer to the 500cc world motorcycle championship yesterday by winning the Italian Grand Prix at Imola, his seventh victory in eight starts. Doohan, on a Honda, finished ahead of Nobunaru Aoki and Takuma Aoki, from Japan.

Niall Mackenzie underlined his determination to keep his British superbike championship as he registered a brilliant double at Thruxton. Mackenzie, from Dublin, knocked 0.7sec off the lap record in the first race, and recovered from a poor start in the next to win by a second from Terry Rymer.

Cup holders bow out

BOWLS: Lincolnshire, the holders, were eliminated from the Middleton Cup after a defeat by Derbyshire on Saturday left them in third place in their qualifying group. Lancashire qualified for the quarter-finals by defeating Nottinghamshire and will now meet Hertfordshire.

Laird full of sparkle

POLO: Laird — a new team put together by Andrew Britten-Long, of the Beaufort Club — defeated Jean-François Deaux's Buffalos by 15 goals to 11 at Cowdray Park in the British Open championship for the Veuve Cligout Gold Cup. Will Lucas and Luke Tomlinson stood out for Laird.

Regan signs for Bath

RUGBY UNION: Mark Regan, the British Isles and England hooker, confirmed yesterday that he will play for Bath next season after agreeing a five-year contract. Regan, 25, follows Simon Shaw, a fellow Lion, out of Bristol, who avoided relegation last season in the play-offs.

Simpson inspires Scots

HOCKEY: Rhona Simpson scored a hat-trick yesterday to lead Scotland to their biggest win for three years and the biggest victory of the season at Largs when they beat Wales 8-2 in the second of two internationals between the countries. Scotland won the first game, on Saturday, 4-3.

Double joy for Britain

CYCLING: The Great Britain pursuit team and Yvonne McGregor rode to victory in the world track cup meeting in Athens. The men defeated Denmark in the final, while McGregor vanquished Antonella Belutti, of Italy, in the individual pursuit final, in 3min 34.70sec, a British record.

CLUB GOLF

LOMBARD TROPHY UPDATE

Now in its third year, it's already the biggest and best Pro-Am golfing event in Europe. In 1997 over 100,000 club golfers from 1,100 clubs competed in qualifying rounds for the right to partner their club professional in one of 16 Regional Finals. The 16 winning pairings gain an expenses paid trip to the Grand Final in the Algarve on 3-7 October.

Lombard, the event's sponsor, is the UK's largest finance house which advances around £150 million each week to their business and personal customers — many of whom compete in the Trophy.

IRISH REGIONAL FINAL

Dublin-based diamond setter, amateur Leo Russell put in a gem-like performance to notch five nett birdies. His professional partner, John Dignam, did likewise as the pair won by four shots with a ten-under-par score of 63 on the sparkling fairways and greens of County Louth to book a place for their club, Slade Valley, in the Grand Final.

WELSH BORDERS REGIONAL FINAL

Former Manchester United groundsman, Peter Solski, was on

LONDON REGIONAL FINAL

British Legion barman Peter Skidmore and Worldham Park pro, Jon Le Roux, will now be fighting for victory on foreign fields after winning at Sundridge Park by a shot.

An incredible 40 foot putt at the first hole from Le Roux put their round into motion as they soldiered on to card a battling eight-under-par 63.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL FINAL

Tyne Park Professional Chris DeBruin will be well prepared for the Grand Final after winning the BA Pro-Am at the San Lorenzo course in February. "I know the course well and would love to make it a double!" said Chris.

Chris and partner John Hartle linked up superbly at the Test Valley course to triumph with an eight-under-par 64 — beating the Fotherills duo of pro Alasdair Good and Ian Mitchell on a countback.

Report compiled by the PGA Press Office

THE TIMES MONDAY JULY 7 1997
IBY UNION
strikes
deal on
average
rugby
Football
Merson
ready
to leave
Arsenal

Pioline outclassed by American Sampras produces performance close to perfection

By JULIAN MÜSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

PETE SAMPRAS, his game seemingly blessed by celestial forces, produced an exhibition of grass-court tennis at Wimbledon yesterday to win the men's singles title for the fourth time in five years. He defeated Cedric Pioline, of France, with a cocktail of near-flawless play, his sublime talent more than redeeming a one-sided encounter.

It was Pioline's grave misfortune to meet Sampras in this mood. No contemporary player — and precious few previous champions — could have extended the American, who now stands two grand-slam titles short of the ultimate accolade. Barring injuries, Sampras, 25, will surely eclipse the 12 accrued by Roy Emerson, of Australia. "I have no fear in the game," Sampras said. "I feel like I'm tough to beat when I'm confident and playing well. It all clicks when you start playing, when you get to the heat of the moment." Pioline would certainly vouch for that. Sampras started with a flourish, probing Pioline's service in the opening game before breaking through at 1-1, a spiteful backhand return relegating the Frenchman to the role of a helpless spectator. The tone was set.

Sampras's progress against the benchmarks of history will now become more significant than his performance in individual tournaments. Typically, however, the American refused to entertain the prospect in advance. "I don't like thinking of myself in terms of history. I am doing quite well for my age, and I am still in the middle of my career. I still feel I can get better."

That is a sobering thought when set against his dismissal of Pioline, for whom there would be no respite. When the Frenchman, threatening to redeem the early break in the opening set, exquisitely lobbed his opponent to reach 30-30, Sampras responded like a wounded lion. He punished Pioline with an ace to reach set

point and a winning first service to secure it 6-4. Pioline had taken just four points off the Sampras service thus far.

Worse was to follow. At 2-2 and 15-30 in the second set, Pioline needed a difficult volley before an identical error, this time off an easier ball, told of the pressure he faced. For good measure, Sampras broke again at 4-2 as Pioline's net-play, so secure against Michael Stich in the semi-final, collapsed under the assault. At the close of the second set, Pioline's gains off the Sampras service had dipped to three.



Woodies triumph — 28
Lynne Trues — 28
Hings reigns — 29

Only mildly did the third set differ in shape. After Sampras had seized the initiative to lead 3-1, Pioline conjured his first break point of the match when 4-3 in arrears. It arrived after 87 minutes' play; Sampras promptly negated it with an unreturnable second service, followed by an ace.

When, eight minutes later, another winning service closed the match, Sampras smiled more in satisfaction than joy. His all-embracing dominance had swept him into joint fourth place in the pantheon of Wimbledon champions, alongside Laver, among others. More meaningful is his progress towards the record of grand-slam titles, as he acknowledged afterwards.

"To have won two makes me feel that 12 is now much more realistic," Sampras said. "To

be put into the same sentence as a Laver [who won ten] is important to me. You can't have a more flattering comparison."

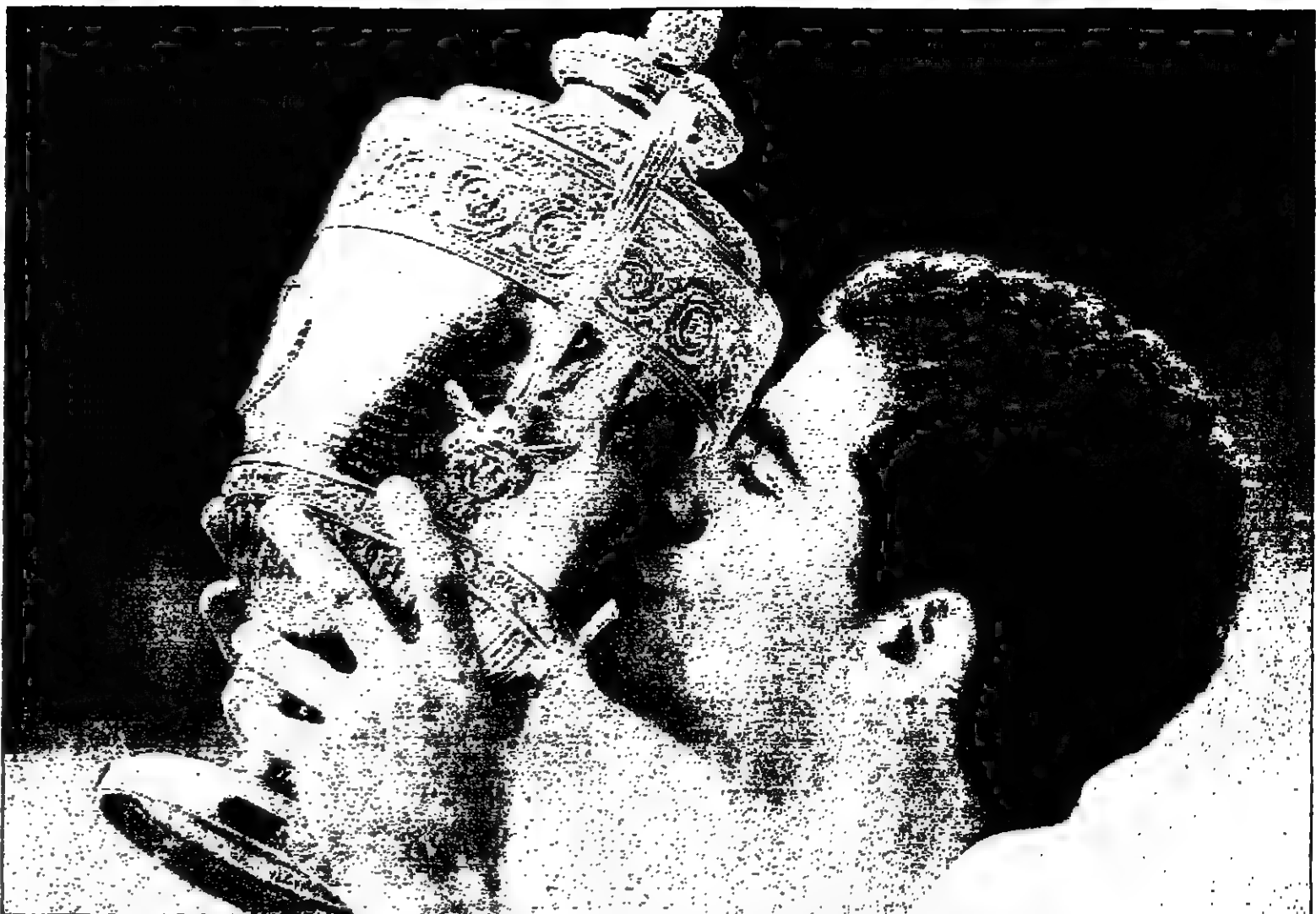
"As a player you want to break records and that's important to me. Now I am in a position to do that. As long as I stay healthy I'm going to keep on playing until there comes a day when I'm not in contention for the slams. I am nowhere near that day."

Pioline faced a significant handicap from the outset. He lacked a match-winning shot and it told in the post-match analysis: the average speed of Sampras's second service all but matched the fastest Pioline delivered all afternoon. That helped to dictate a contest overwhelmingly dominated by winning services than rallies of substance. In these circumstances, the brutal beauty within Sampras's game offered ample compensation.

It was almost the stuff of fantasy. The champion lacked for nothing in as authoritative a performance the Centre Court has recently witnessed. If there have been easier victories, gained in quicker time, it must be remembered that standards continue to rise. The dispersal of seeds in the draw's lower half offers ample evidence that nothing can be taken for granted in the contemporary game.

Nothing, that is, except for Sampras's undoubted brilliance. By his account, his serving was the best he had produced in his career. His returns were equally potent, his volleying skills had no equal and he has lost none of his speed around the court.

Perhaps the best example of his grip on the match came early in the third set, when Sampras, horror of horrors, served his first double fault. A ripple of disbelief swept through the crowd, which, after more than an hour of the match, had just seen evidence that Sampras was human after all.



Sampras renews his acquaintance with the men's singles trophy after his near-flawless victory over Pioline. Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

History beckons extraordinary talent

SIMON BARNES



watches the men's final

I was not a great match. And I really do not think a great player, either. Yesterday, Pete Sampras passed beyond mere greatness. He moved into that rarefied territory inhabited by the rarest of rare men. This was his fourth Wimbledon title, which moves him into double figures for grand-slam tournaments.

There is no arguing with Sampras any more, not for a single second. There is no point in wondering how great he is. The only question worth asking is whether or not he is the greatest player that ever lifted a racket. The answer is quite possibly yes, but it is up to Sampras to spell out the answer, grand-slam event by grand-slam event, over the next two or three years.

There will be some people who see in this extraordinarily facile victory only the limitations of his hapless opponent, Cedric Pioline. True,

Pioline, handicapped by the first name of Cedric and by the fact that his underparts were longer than his shorts, was never at the races. But that is not the point. There is not a player playing who could have lived with Sampras yesterday, or at any period last week. Petr Korda took him to five sets, but that served only to reveal Sampras's lust for battle. Subsequent rounds revealed only his talent and his lust for destruction.

Let us concentrate on the part of the match that contained surprises. Sampras made an unforced error in the final game of the second set, but that was because he broke a string in his racket. Shockingly, he served two double faults in the match, two more than in his semi-final against Todd Woodbridge.

The service was, as ever, his castle, an impregnable fortress from which he could make dashing sorties into his opponent's peace of mind. Never mind the power of the first service. It is the sheer nerve of his second that destroys opponent after opponent. Power, accuracy, above all, depth. What is dangerous territory for most players is a safe and sober option.

Pioline managed four points against the service in the first set, three in the second. In the final set, Sampras went to pieces: he lost as many as ten points on his service and even had a break point to save. It mattered nothing. He only lost two service games in the entire championship, which included a run of 97 victorious service games. Some stat, that.

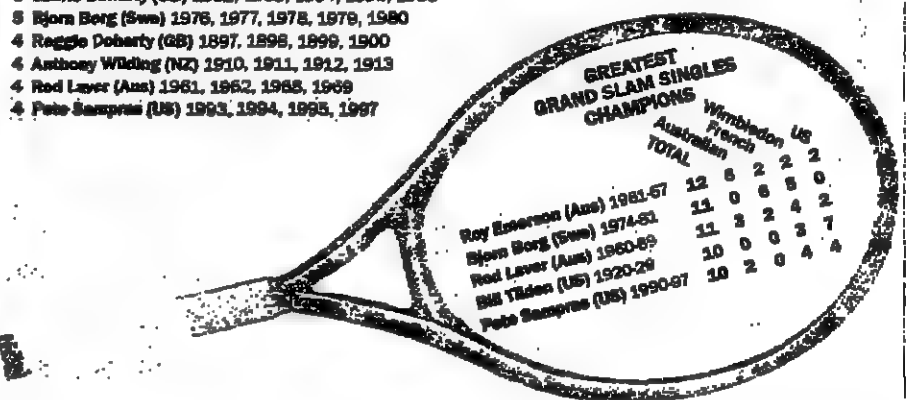
I think, and hope, that with this win we can at last put to bed the notion of Sampras as "boring". He is not lovable, but then he is scarcely fallible either. We may not be able to relate to such extraordinary talent, such extraordinary strength of mind: we may be more at home with the thrilling fallibilities of Boris Becker, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors. But these are our own limitations, not his. Sporting crowds may respond more generously to the romantic, but Sampras represents the classical tradition: hard, austere, and seeking ever a cold, formal perfection.

FINAL DETAILS

SAMPTRAS PIOLINE		
Aces	17	13
Double faults	2	1
First services in	59%	59%
Forehand winners	5	2
Backhand winners	7	6
Volley winners	3	7
Passing winners	4	4
Served to winners	5	3
Served to losers	60%	39%
Break points	8	1
Break points won	4	0

HOW SAMPRAS COMPARES WITH WIMBLEDON'S TITLED CHAMPIONS

- 7 William Renshaw (GB) 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889
- 8 Laurie Doherty (GB) 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906
- 9 Bjorn Borg (Swe) 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980
- 4 Reggie Doherty (GB) 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900
- 4 Anthony Wilding (NZ) 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913
- 4 Rod Laver (Aus) 1961, 1962, 1968, 1969
- 4 Pete Sampras (US) 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997



Someone had the cheek, or the nerve, to ask Sampras if, in the future, he would loosen up on court, show his emotions, seek a little more the love of the crowd. "It's worked so far," he said, meaning his method. And he made the inevitable comparison: "It's a lot like Borg."

Bjorn Borg was a player of classical temperament in the guise of a romantic. A Round-head with a Cavalier's haircut, Sampras has no disguises, no frills, no nonsense. Sure, he felt a little nervous coming on to court, but then, as he said beguilingly, "my tennis just took over". Simple as that.

Sampras is now 25 and the only real obstacle between him and a series of quite

extraordinary and possibly unbeatable records is the spectre of boredom. That, and the unrelenting pressures and tensions of the sporting life.

Borg retired when still at his best. McEnroe took a sabbatical, also at the top, and when he came back he was never the same. Tennis is a sport that has the four annual peaks of the grand-slam tournaments, the travel, the endless hitting and gym work, all the stuff that lies between them, hang heavier on a champion with every passing year.

Only the grand-slam events have the tabasco to titillate a champion's palate; nothing else has any taste whatsoever. "That is what it's all about, the majors, and I hope it is what

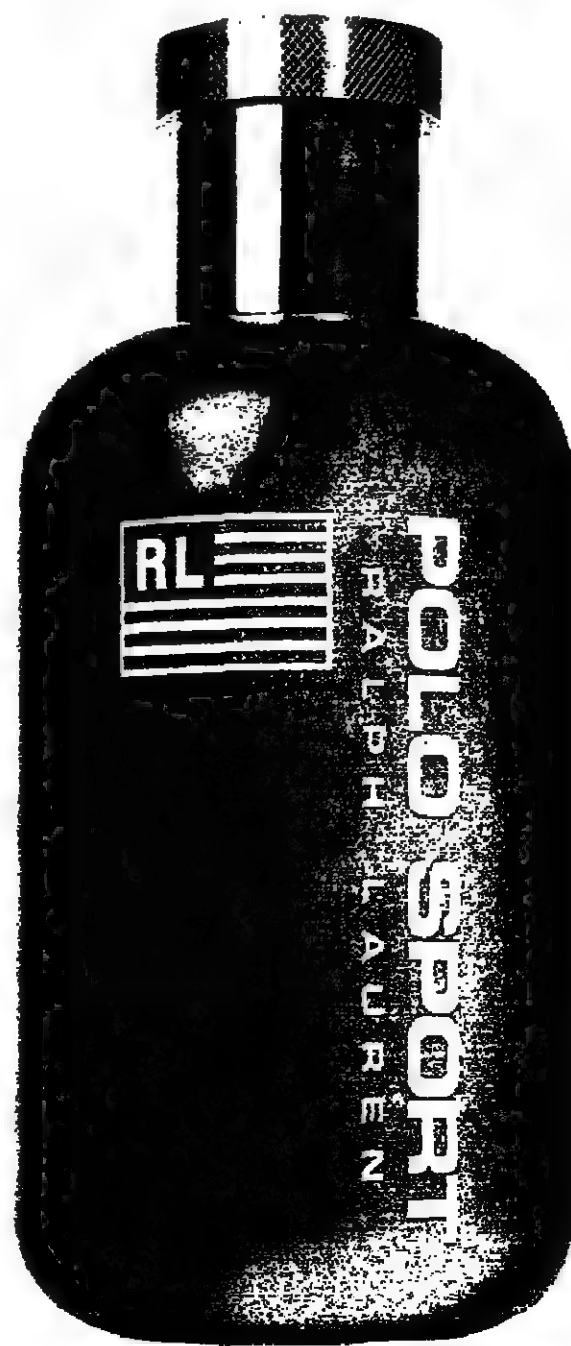
will keep me in the game," he said yesterday. "There's no reason why I can't play at this level for many years."

He has no obvious rival. He encompasses no soap opera: we have only the increasingly lonely story of Sampras's search for perfection. Andre Agassi threatened to become a rival, but his winsome nature could not last the pace, despite his voluptuous gifts.

Becker retired from grand-slam tennis this Wimbledon, and Sampras said that he would probably retire altogether when he was no longer a contender. Sampras is, for the moment, on his own, though in another sense, he always has been. "I can get better," he said yesterday. "I can improve..."

SPORT IN BRIEF
than closes in
world title
holders bow out
I tell of sparkle
inspires for Bath
inspires for Bath

THE FITNESS FRAGRANCE BY RALPH LAUREN



TENNIS

Woodies justify position among nominated No 1s

By Nick Szczepanik

SO. THE seeding committees do know a thing or two after all. The victory of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in the men's doubles final, added to the earlier wins for Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva in the women's doubles and Martina Hingis in the women's singles — not forgetting that Sampras fellow — mean that four of the five main finals at Wimbledon this year were won by the No 1 seeds. Grant Connell and Lindsay Davenport, the No 1 seeds in mixed doubles, were eliminated by Cyril Suk and Helena Sukova in the semi-finals yesterday afternoon.

Woodbridge and Woodforde, of Australia, were clear favourites to take their fifth straight Wimbledon championship yesterday, yet the Woodies had to recover a service break to force a first set tie-break against Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, the Dutch pair.

There were more surprises in store. In the second set tie-break, Woodbridge double-faulted and then put Haarhuis's return into the net to give the Dutchmen a 3-0

lead, which eventually became three set points at 3-6. All were saved, as was another at 6-7, before a Woodforde ace and a Woodbridge volley settled it.

The third set appeared to be more straightforward, the Woodies going an early break ahead, allowing Woodbridge to serve for the match at 5-3. At 40-0, it seemed all over — except that the three championship points were squandered, as was a later fourth, and Eltingh and Haarhuis recovered the break, eventually taking the set 7-5. Only one break was needed in the fourth, Woodbridge eventually winning 7-6, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.

A Woodforde and Woodbridge victory, their ninth grand slam tournament doubles title and their 44th in all, puts them equal-third in the all-time list of doubles partnerships, behind Peter Fleming and John McEnroe and Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan.

In the women's doubles, Fernandez, of the United States, and Zvereva, of Belarus, the reigning French and US Open champions,

added the Wimbledon title with a hard-fought 7-6, 6-1 victory over Nicole Arendt, of the United States, and Manon Bollegraf, of Holland, the No 6 seeds. Theirs is a long-standing partnership, which broke up last year, but has reformed to good effect.

"Last year, we stopped playing together, then started again," Fernandez said. "After not playing together for a while, we didn't have any expectations. To win the French and then this one is very special."

The first final on the new No 1 Court threatened to run away from the underdogs when Arendt's service was broken in the fourth game of the match, but Arendt and Bollegraf, who eliminated Hingis and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Friday, were in no mood to give in and broke back on the Zvereva service. Zvereva also lost her two points in the tie-break, but the favourites recovered them and two successive double-faults from Bollegraf decided the first set.

The Bollegraf service was proving unreliable and, if a service was to be broken in the second set, it was surely going to be hers. So it proved as Fernandez and Zvereva took a decisive 4-3 lead, despite an unanswered corner-to-corner lob by Bollegraf to win a break-back point. It was left to Fernandez to serve out for the win.

At the end, all four players embraced at the net and the match, although won in straight sets, had been nearly as close, as Fernandez admitted. "We've been in grand slams 25 times, or something like that, and it was their first, but it didn't seem that they were nervous, except on a couple of serves," she said. "They played a great match."

Neil Broad, the British Davis Cup player, was eliminated from the mixed doubles in the semi-final when he and Marianne de Swardt were beaten by Andrei Olhovskiy and Larisa Neiland.

Lost tribe fails to settle out of court

LYNNE TRUSS



gazes beyond the centre of attention

I ought to mention first that I live in a popular seaside town, which rather explains some of the following. For what happens when you live by the seaside is that, on the first sunny day in May, a lot of strangers turn up on the prom and grab all the deck chairs. "Where were you in March?" I always splutter. It's irrational, but I can't help it. Madly, I dig in my pocket for proof of deckchair hire in the winter months, but can't find any. "Well I was here, and I bet you weren't!" I say. Which, funny enough, often clears a space.

An azure-skied finals weekend of Wimbledon, when the previous fortnight has been wet, wayward and a test of sanctifiable patience, elicits a similar reaction in me. I discover, for, instead of buying the usual £53 lunches in the Wingfield Restaurant, the punters yesterday broke with tradition and headed straight for Centre Court, leaving no gaps for the people who'd turned up every day, rain or shine (like lemons). What a swizz.

"Nope." "No chance," and "Go away" were the main responses to my hopeful press-pass fiddling on stairwells blocked by the usually jolly representatives of the armed services (up to now, my chums). "Go on, let me in!" I begged. "This is the best bit, isn't it?" "Shan't" they said. I considered dodging. As the crowd noise inside increased ("Ooh! Aah!"), I feverishly considered tunnelling. I now understand the recklessness of that bloke in *The Great Escape* who just made a dash for it, and got tragically shot in the back.



Piotine performs for the fortunate thousands with tickets for the men's final

Inside Centre Court yesterday, of course, Pete Sampras was displaying the greatest tennis anyone has ever seen. People afterwards assured me it was sublime. Ho hum. But outside No 1 Court, two French girls sat behind me on a ceremonial mound, watching the match get started on a giant video screen. Did we feel second-class? You bet.

I guessed the girls were French, incidentally, because they exclaimed things like "Alois, zero-quinze!" and sported chic sunglasses. "Do you think he can win?" I asked one of them sympa-

thetically, indicating their countryman before us. "Piotine, non," she scoffed, in that inimitable French scoffing way. "But she's OK, because it is Sampras I want to win."

This huge screen has been a mixed success during this fortnight, being unwatched on rainy days and extremely hard to watch when the sun comes out, but yesterday it came into its own, collecting all the stray punters into one small colourful area and somehow underlining the religious aspect of the event — something about the shape of the hill, perhaps. The five thousand with the leaves and

fishes always looked like this in Bible illustrations. A cheerful community of outcasts, we watched Sampras's straight-sets win under a baking sun, some of us guzzling gallons of Pimms and lager, and some of just acquiring chewing-gum on our clothes.

As a consequence of the giant screen's magnetism, the rest of Wimbledon was a ghost town. Some of the courts were roped off, in any case; and on No 3 Court, the peaky steps policed continually by the Corps of Commissioners over the past fortnight ("Move off the

steps, please. Up or down. You can't stand on these here steps. Yes you, madam.") were suddenly no trouble at all. People walked up them, they walked down them. Easy.

A few people sat by No 18 Court, watching the grass grow, which was a bit odd, while nearby, in a deserted undercover concourse, a cushion-hire girl was engrossed in *Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad — a choice of book that said it all, since Conrad is not a stylist to be read through regular interruptions.

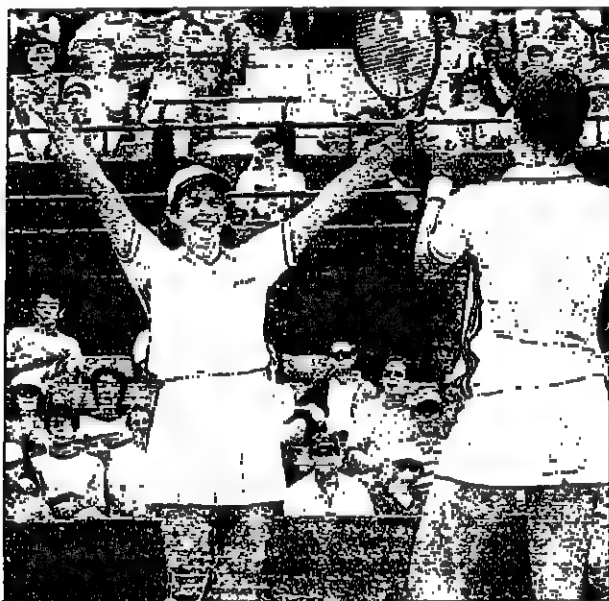
It was all dead. In the Wimbledon Shop, customers rolled aimlessly about, like Maltesers in a shoe box, and the tills were silent. On a whim, I bought that keyring I've been dithering about. It was quite an easy purchase, in the end. What a relief.

Saturday had been a better day for seeing the tennis. In the women's singles final, I staunchly supported Novotna, of course — the long and short of it being that Hingis gives me the pips. I mean to say, changing ends at 3-2 up in the third set, Hingis actually skipped towards the seats — yes, skipped. I am 16, going on 17, la da di da de dah. Fellers I meet may tell me I'm sweet, and willingly I believe. Moreover, when she dutifully swapped trophies with Jana Novotna afterwards, Hingis playfully pretended to dash the runner-up plate to the ground.

"I think she may have a tendency to be big-headed," a nice lady on the 39 bus said yesterday morning. "You may be right, there," I agreed.

But nothing in the match was as hard as watching the referee, Alan Mills, crouch kindly in front of Novotna afterwards, offering words of consolation. Being nice to someone who's fighting the urge to cry? Surely he knows this always makes them break down in sobs?

Luckily, however, Novotna did not cry, and instead used her moments with the Duchess to catch up on the go. "You never kept in touch after last time, though," she said, all pink with emotion. "Well, that's showbiz," said the nicely coiffed royal.



Fernandez, left, begins the celebrations after she and Zvereva win the women's doubles yesterday

Bravo Martina!



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RESULTS FROM THE ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: £415,000
Runner-up: £207,500
Holder: R Krajicek (Hol)

Final
P SAMPRAS (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4

Men's doubles

Winners: £170,030
Runners-up: £85,010
Holders: T A Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus)

Final
T A WOODBRIDGE (Aus) and M WOODFORDE (Aus) bt G Eltingh (Hol) and P HAARHUIS (Hol) 7-6, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3

Women's singles

Winners: £14,000
Runners-up: £7,000
Holders: W J Fibak (Pol) and T Wilkinson (US)

Final
M J BATES (GB) and R KRAJICEK (Ind) bt K CURRAN (US) and J C KOK (US) 6-4, 6-4

Women's doubles

Winners: £147,010
Runners-up: £73,270
Holders: M Hingis (Switz) and H Sukova (Cz)

Final
G FERNANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Bel) bt N J ARENDT (US) and M BOLLEGRAF (Hol) 7-6, 6-1

Mixed doubles

Winners: £72,200
Runners-up: £36,100
Holders: C Suk (Cz) and H Sukova (Cz)

Semi-finals
A OLHOVSKY (Russ) and L NEILAND (Lat) bt N J ARENDT (US) and M BOLLEGRAF (Hol) 7-6, 6-3

Quarter-finals
C SUK (Cz) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt G CONNELL (Ire) and L DAVENPORT (US) 3-6, 6-3

Semi-finals
C SUK (Cz) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt G CONNELL (Ire) and L DAVENPORT (US) 3-6, 6-3

Quarter-finals
C SUK (Cz) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt G CONNELL (Ire) and L DAVENPORT (US) 3-6, 6-3

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Semi-finals
C SUK (Cz) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt G CONNELL (Ire) and L DAVENPORT (US) 3-6, 6-3

Quarter-finals
C SUK (Cz) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt G CONNELL (Ire) and L DAVENPORT (US) 3-6, 6-3



Third round
SUK and SUKOVA bt K Krajicek (US) and N J ARENDT (US) 6-3, 7-6, 6-3
LEACH and BOLLEGRAF bt M BOLLEGRAF (Ind) and R HIRAKI (Japan) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4

Men's over-35 doubles
Winners: £11,000
Runners-up: £5,500
Holders: J Fibak (Pol) and T Wilkinson (US)

Final
M J BATES (GB) and R KRAJICEK (Ind) bt K CURRAN (US) and J C KOK (US) 6-4, 6-4

Semi-finals
Curran and Kok bt J B Fitzgerald (Aus) and K Krajicek (Ind) 6-3, 7-6, 6-3

First round (round robin)
Bates and Krajicek bt M R Edmondson (Aus) and R J Frawley (Aus) 6-2, 6-2; P Stoll (Cz) and T Smedley (Cz) bt H Pinner (US) and L Shires (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; Curran and Kok bt W J Fibak (Pol) and T Wilkinson (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2

Men's over-45 doubles
Winners: £11,000
Runners-up: £5,500
Holders: J Alexander (Aus) and P Dent (Aus)

Final
J Fild (Chil) and R L Stockton (US) bt O K Davidson (Aus) and E C Drysdale (SA) 6-1, 6-2

Girls' singles
Holder: A Maunsmo (Fr)

Final
C Black (Zim) bt A Rappner (US) 6-3, 7-6

Semi-finals
Rappner bt A Maunsmo (Fr) 7-6, 6-1

Quarter-finals
Stewart bt J Hingis (Bel) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6

GRU'S DOUBLES: Quarter-finals: M Matocze (Slov) and K Srebotnik (Slov) bt B Colomo (Fr) and P Palencia (Mex) 6-2, 6-0; T Poutchev (Bel) and E Srebotnik (Russ) bt A Babos (Slov) and G Volokova (Slov) 6-2, 7-6; M Iwi (US) and A Rappner (US) bt S Taylor (US) and J Wynn (Fr) 6-3, 6-1; C Black (Zim) and J Sukova (Cz) bt E Dyrberg (Den) and M Hingis (Switz) 6-3, 7-6

Semi-finals: Matocze and Srebotnik bt Poutchev and Volokova 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; Black and Sukova bt Wynn and Rappner 6-4, 6-3; Pinner Black and Sukova bt Matocze and Srebotnik 3-6, 7-6, 6-3

William Hill have installed Pete Sampras as 6-4 favourite to win Wimbledon again next year.

INTERNET DETAILS
WIMBLEDON
Links to The Times's coverage of the Wimbledon championships are in the Internet edition's Info Times section: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

ASHES
Links to The Times's coverage of the Ashes series are in the Internet edition's Info Times section: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Black has hard act to follow

By Nick Szczepanik

WHILE many eyes at Wimbledon yesterday were on the opening exchanges between Pete Sampras and Cedric Pioline, the junior singles finals were being decided between players who may, or may not, become senior champions of the future.

Cara Black, of Zimbabwe, seeded No 3, who beat Aubrie Rippner, of the United States, the No 6 seed, to win the girls' title, has the most recent positive role model: Martina Hingis, as No 8 seed, won this competition in 1994. Black recovered from 3-0 down in the first set and 5-3 down in the second to win 6-3, 7-6.

Black, though, is already two years older than Hingis, and her triumph does not guarantee further success. Unless you count Natasha Zvereva, the junior champion in 1986 and 1987, the most illustrious name before that of Hingis on the list of past finalists is Martina Navratilova, the runner-up in 1973.

Wesley Whitehouse, from South Africa, who won the boys' title by beating Daniel Elsner, of Germany, the top seed and world junior No 1, is following in more famous footsteps. Previous champions include Stefan Edberg (1983), Pat Cash (1982) and Ivan Lendl (1978).

Whitehouse has had a promising year and has the weapon regarded as the most potent in the men's game: a big service. Nevertheless, his victory over Elsner, the more complete all-round player and the Australian and French junior champion, was a surprise. Elsner, however, had no answer to Whitehouse's 12 aces as Whitehouse won 6-3, 7-6.

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HARD ISSUE

Novotna unable to sustain first-set dominance in memorable final

Hingis hailed as queen of grass before her time

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE pity about the women's singles championship this year was that Steffi Graf could not defend her title through injury. The dawn of an era when Martina Hingis, at 16 years and nine months, became the youngest player in this century to lift the Venus Rosewater Dish, at the expense of Jana Novotna. The remarkable truth about Hingis is that she progressed from grass-court novice to Wimbledon champion in the 110 minutes that she required for her 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory in a memorable final.

It might have been a different matter had Hingis, Slovakian-born but now playing out of Switzerland, encountered Graf's steady resolve in the final on Saturday — as would have been projected by Wimbledon's seeding committee. Early in the match, Novotna, from the Czech Republic, exposed Hingis's inexperience on grass to claim the first set after 22 minutes. Hingis looked bemused, her dislike of grass evident, her ground strokes stripped of accuracy by the vagaries of the bounce and the aggression in Novotna's game.

Hingis, however, is a born competitor. Youth brings with it a certain submissiveness in a crisis. It simply refuses to yield. So it was that Hingis clawed her way into the match, learning on the run before ultimately she imposed herself on her labouring opponent. She did so by varying her game, occasionally venturing to the net and tossing up the odd lob to keep Novotna on her heels. In the end, the transformation was complete. Having been broken to love in the opening game, Hingis finished the match as her opponent had started, breaking Novotna to love on the latter's last service game.

Graf might never have allowed the contest to reach a deciding set. All cold and businesslike on the court, she might never have allowed Hingis to improvise as she played. Graf, after all, has won seven Wimbledon titles; Novotna none. But then Graf would only have been postponing the inevitable. Hingis represents the face of women's tennis for the new millennium.

While we are accustomed to barely-pubescent startlers, like Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams, Hingis is from the same vintage. As Williams spends the



FINAL STATISTICS

Hingis won 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 in 1hr 50min

	HINGIS	NOVOTNA
Double faults	2	4
First serves in	87%	55%
Points won	14	10
Backhand winners	10	22
Volley winners	10	11
Service return winners	6	5
Service return winners	86%	81%
Break points	11	3
Break points won	5	0

learning curve, restrained from full-time competition by her parents, Hingis already possesses two grand-slam tournament titles. But for her fatigue after a knee injury which, she maintains, accounted for her defeat in the French Open final in Paris last month, she would be playing for the grand slam in New York next month.

Of course, fate may yet conspire against Hingis, as it has against Monica Seles, the child prodigy before her. For all Hingis's exuberance, Seles's sad plight since she was stabbed in the back in Hamburg four years ago remains the

endearing memory of this Wimbledon. Who knows what future awaits Hingis? With Graf's future uncertain, and with her game now vulnerable to nothing more sinister than the passage of time, Hingis's reign is unchallenged.

Novotna felt that a troublesome stomach ailment compromised her service as the contest unfolded. Her argument has support in the official match data: her first-service ratio regressed from 73 per cent, to 63 per cent, to 46 per cent, over the three sets. However, if Novotna was guilty of anything — and she did herself justice in this match — it was in her unwillingness to rethink a tactic that had paid handsome early dividends.

Novotna charged and charged the Hingis service to telling effect in that first set. However, Hingis discovered the antidote once she had acclimatised to the pace of the court. Time and again, Novotna could only watch as another Hingis drive whistled past her flanks. Where her first volley had been destructive, Novotna was now hunching just to get racket on ball. Where she continually wrong-footed Hingis with her volleys, she was now at full stretch to maintain her creaking defences.

Thus Hingis translocated a hopeless cause. She peppered the lines with a series of stunning passes, particularly her two-fisted backhand down the line. As Novotna later conceded: "That backhand — I knew it was coming. I thought I had it covered, but it was just too good."

Before this match, Novotna, 28, told how she had cleared her capitulation to Graf, when poised for victory four years ago, from her fragile mind. She was as good as her word, resisting the tide until it finally engulfed her. Although of scant consolation, Novotna is left to reflect on the point she had for a 3-0 lead in the deciding set; on the five break points she conjured to retrieve the deciding break at 3-5 in the second set; on the fact that 11 of the last 15 games were resolved after a flurry of deuces. It was that close a contest.

As for Hingis, the poignancy of her victory was amplified when she briefly allowed Novotna to parade the women's singles trophy in mock celebration. In the foreseeable future, it may be that only with Hingis's consent will the trophy be raised by a different pair of hands.



Novotna goes on bended knee



Hingis cannot keep her feet on the ground after the final

Experience bows to testament of youth

Michael Calvin reflects on a final that saw one dream dashed at dawn of a new dominant era

The air in the trainer's room beneath Centre Court should have been thick with tension, polluted by personal ambition. Yet, as they lay within feet of each other, having their muscles massaged and their sinews stretched before the Wimbledon women's final, Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna chatted like sisters under the hairdrier at a suburban salon.

Novotna, her life placed into perspective by the thought of her seriously ill father preparing to watch her on television from a hospital bed in her hometown of Brno, in the Czech Republic, was amused by the lack of pretension. Hingis, whose life is still tinged by the innocence of Pony Clubs and puppy dogs, was attentive, almost artless.

The scene might have been surreal, in this obsessively commercial era of manufactured rivalry and motivational psychobabble, but the spell was not broken by a match that stimulated contrasting emotions and confirmed the passing of another generation.

Novotna was beaten, but insulated by the excellence of the girl who had become the youngest champion since Lottie Dod in 1887. There were no tears of self-recrimination. As she looked down at the runners-up plate, the reflected light lent a golden sheen to a face softened by a sense of release.

Hingis, who at 16 is 12 years younger than her opponent, will learn that inferiority is an occupational hazard, not a mortal sin. Defeat is not necessarily self-destructive and Novotna blossomed in adversity. She conquered the inner demons who whispered that she would again succumb to the nerves that ambushed her within sight of victory over Steffi Graf in the 1993 final.

"When I played Steffi in '93, she was very serious," Novotna said. "Everything was like, rushed. You don't look at each other beforehand, don't talk to each other. Martina and I had a very pleasant conversation. She is very talented, but very respectful. I have the same respect for her that she has for me, and that is really important."

"If I compare her to other players who we have seen burn out, she is very normal. When she is not on court, she acts like a normal teenage kid, but on the other hand, when she is on court, she knows very well what she's doing. Out there, she wants to win."

Novotna was speaking with a freshness, a freedom that suggested that she had begun to come to terms with the fact that she will never win the Wimbledon title that her serve-and-volley game de-

serves. Hingis proved more, by rallying to win in three sets, than she would have evinced by enjoying a two-set walkover. The child in her admitted that, when she lost the first four games of the final, it was "like, wow, what can I do?" The competitor in her, manifested by such understated gestures as a gentle slap on her thighs, administered whenever things went awry, provided the answers.

Hingis had the initiative to act on something more than instinct, and showed that she can think for herself. She compensated for her weaknesses — her average service was 13mph slower than Novotna's — by changing the pace of her returns, the angle of her attack. It was like watching Shane Warne think a batsman out, or Stephen Hendry grind down an opponent.

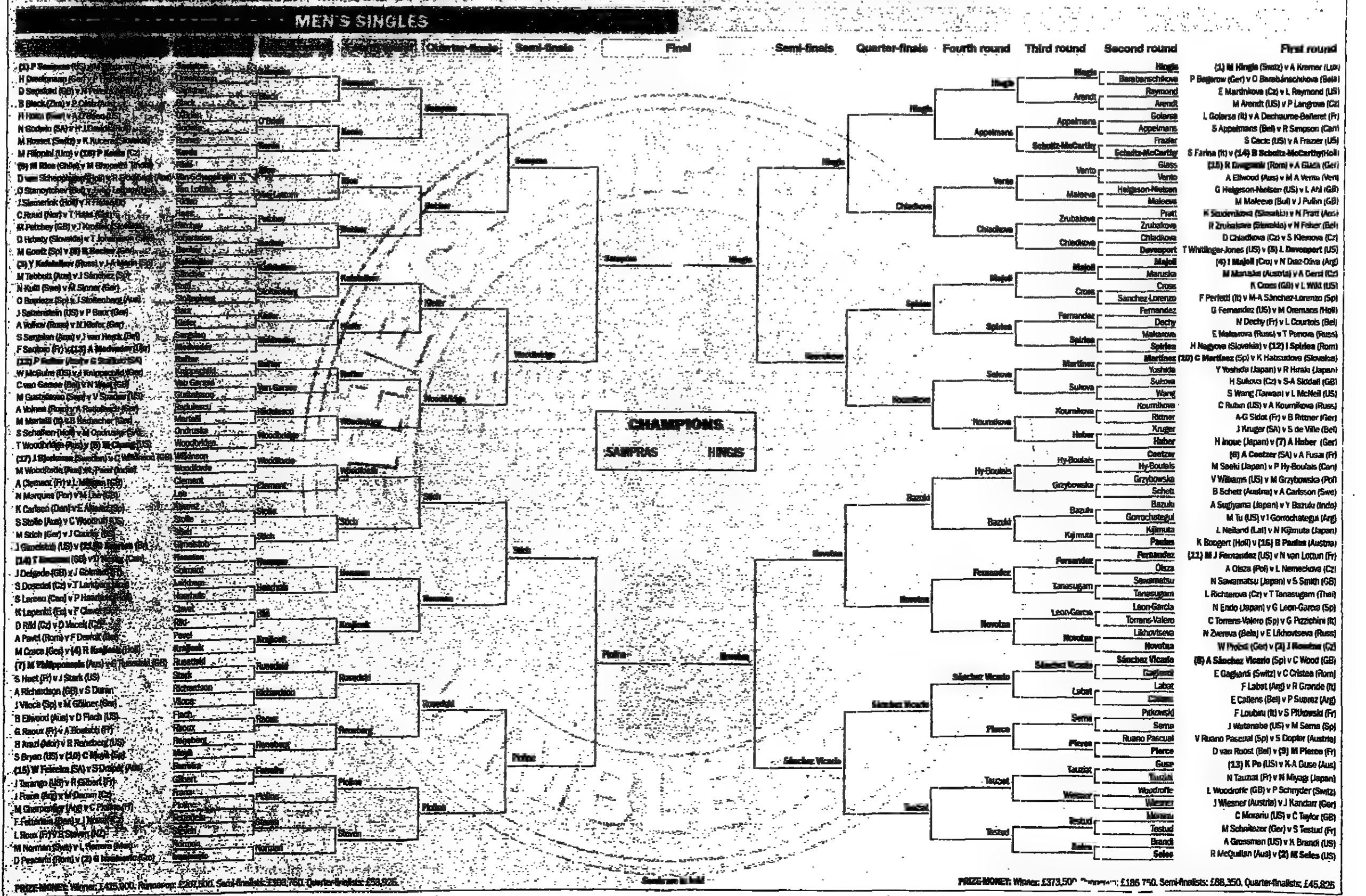
She will never be a cutie in the Anna Kournikova mould, nor a transatlantic role model such as Venus Williams. Her strength is her ordinariness, the sense of reality nurtured by her mother, Melanie Molitor. Her responsibility, to rationalise the demands on her daughter, is critical. Fame and attendant fortune can transform the most pleasant, but half-formed, character into a snarling caricature of a spoilt brat. Not all will be domestic bliss.

It is unrealistic to expect Hingis to retain the purity of youth, the optimism of inexperience. Graf, who has matured from phenomenon to patron, has become a little cynical and world weary. Already, there are signs that the image consultants are claiming their pound of puppy fat from Hingis. She seemed faintly ill-at-ease with the skin-tight outfits supplied by her Italian clothing company during the championships, which gave her the faintly ridiculous air of an attendant at a Kensington ice cream parlour. Her track suits, with the name "Martina" emblazoned on the back in orange script, looked as if they had been run off, with a fortnight's holiday in Margate in mind, by the owner of a Sunday market stall.

"It might be that I'm, maybe, too young to win this title," Hingis said. If she needed any advice on how to mature gracefully, though, she had only to ask the dignified woman who sipped champagne with her after, all-too-briefly, snatching the winner's salver from her arms.

"I just wondered how it feels," Novotna said, laughing as she explained her spur-of-the-moment larceny. The probability is she will never truly know and that Hingis is in imminent danger of being bored by the sensation.

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Balance of power in Ashes series shifts as Australia exert control at Old Trafford

Gillespie exposes England's enduring weakness

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD (fourth day of five): England, with five second-innings wickets standing, need 339 runs to beat Australia

IN THE style of a sadistic dentist, Australia kept England fretting in the waiting-room, hour after hour, then applied the treatment with savage speed. It took 31 minutes, either side of tea yesterday, for the third Test match to be taken beyond recall. Suddenly, the Ashes series has an entirely different complexion.

Within that shattering half-hour, England's top four was snared and all potential escape routes collapsed. Although John Crawley took the game into its final day with an unbeaten half-century, the weather forecast is fair and the outcome surely a formality. The teams are set to go to Leeds, later this month, all square.

Ever since they succumbed so haplessly to Shane Warne on Friday, England have been losing this match with some inevitability. They rallied on Saturday and there was just a moment, in late afternoon, when Australia seemed vulnerable. Steve Waugh quickly put paid to such fancy.

Even with only one good hand — the other, bruised one being snatched off the bar handle at every opportunity — Waugh blighted England's optimism and became the first man for 50 years to score two hundreds in an Ashes Test. Then, yesterday, came the mind games. How long would

Mark Taylor make England wait to bat again? He probably had sufficient runs to win with at start of play and, by lunchtime, the margin was embarrassing. Still Taylor pressed on, seeking signs of fatalism on the field, playing every card in his psychological pack.

When the declaration came, 30 minutes into the afternoon session, England were left a notional target of 469. Slightly more realistically, considering 145 is the highest fourth-innings score to win a Test on this ground, they were asked to bat out a minimum of 141 overs. Any fond hope that it

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Players want change 33

might be possible vanished in the seventeenth of them with the retreating figure of Michael Atherton. Alone among English batsmen, Atherton was capable of even contemplating the monumental task, but the clutter of wickets that followed his dismissal to a dubious leg-before decision was as predictable as it was academic. The game was up.

This time it was not Warne who plundered most of the booty but another devotee of earrings, Jason Gillespie. Hitherto, Gillespie had played an anonymous role, seemingly bowling well within himself. A switch to the Stretford End transformed him; line, rhythm and speed were restored and, in 19 balls, he took three wickets for five.

This was the latest in a line of memorable contributions, for this has been a riveting cricket match, a fact apparently lost on the tiresome sequence of spectators who invaded the ground late yesterday. Lancashire say the streakers will be charged, and so they should be, but the clad and semi-clad were no less of an irritation. This trend has to be discouraged before it becomes a serious cause of delay and brings mockery and disrepute upon the game.

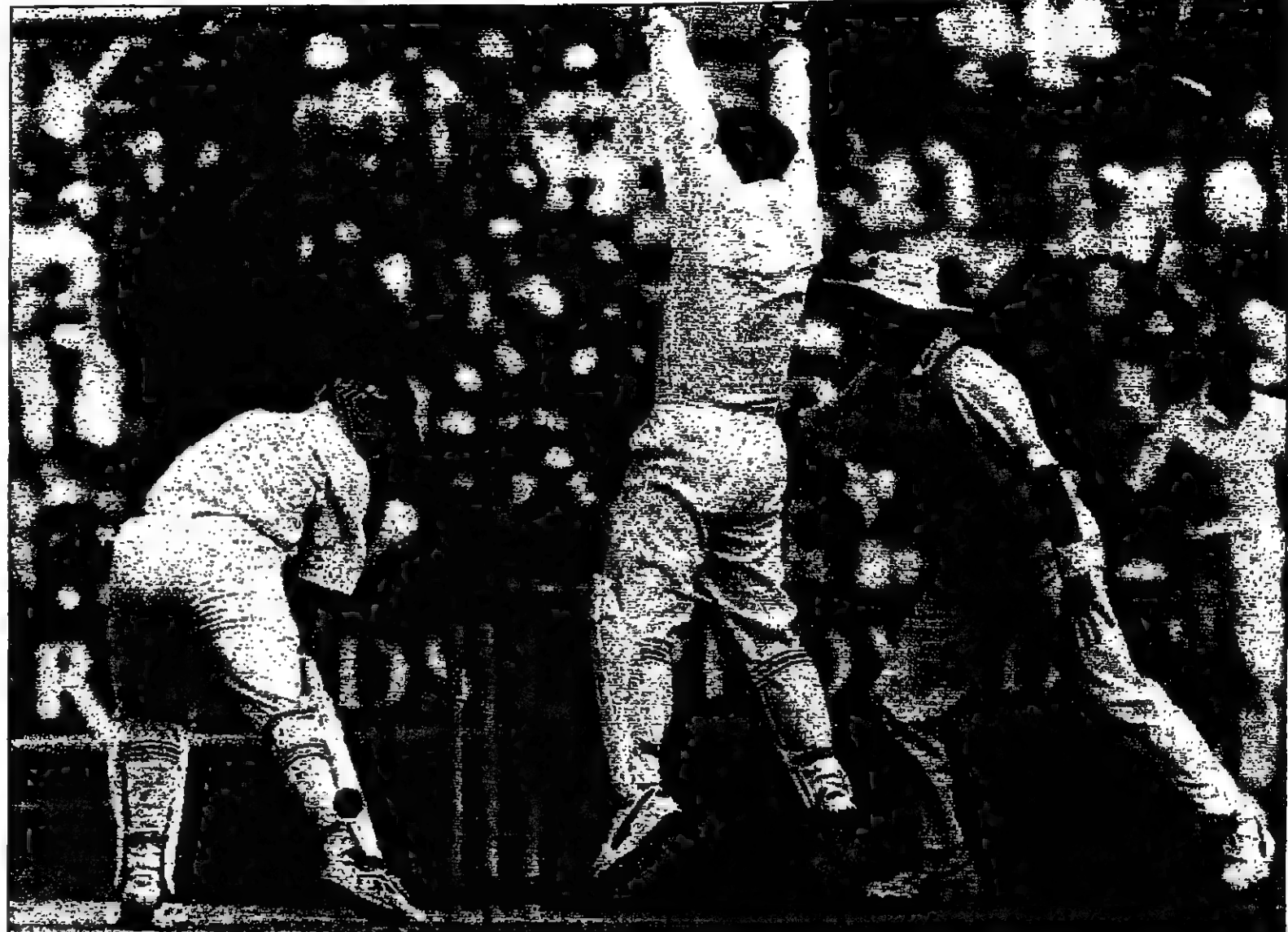
It was a shame, too, for the majority who were not intent on exhibitionism. This was the first time Test cricket has been staged on Wimbledon finals Sunday and all tickets were sold even before it was clear no Britons would be involved on Centre Court.

England received constant vocal support but, for once this summer, could not raise a response. The pitch had lost its menace, certainly when the seamers were operating, and the fact that Waugh and the Australia tail could add 133 at a run a minute said something for the conditions and something else for weary, uninspired bowling.

Warne completed his second Test half-century with a confident flourish before Caddick found some extra bounce to remove him. A similar ball from Headley, England's best bowler throughout the game, finally dislodged Waugh. Even the ninth wicket added 62 untroubled runs before Taylor called off the punishment. Then came another anxious wait, this time for the arrival of Warne. Taylor threw him the ball for the fourth over but the consequent shift of ends for Gillespie was still more significant.

It did not initially seem that way as Atherton hooked Gillespie for a collector's piece six, but after 71 minutes without so much as an alarm the captain left the bridge. Gillespie forced him back, angling the ball into his pads, but there was a fair chance it would have missed leg stump. The umpires have had an erratic match. Warne's next over, his third, saw off Stewart, bamboozled in flight and bowled through a yawning gap between bat and pad. It was Warne's 250th Test wicket, and, with bare patches and deep footmarks to aim at, he could have a few more today.

After tea, Gillespie extracted Hussain with a similar ball to that which dismissed Atherton, then dropped one short to Butcher and watched McGrath catch the top-edged putt down by his bootstraps at fine leg. If Elliott, at gully, had held on to a cut by Crawley with the score on 68, the match would probably have been over last night. Instead, Thorpe — losing the patience game with Warne and cutting at an offensively wide one — was the only further casualty.



Stewart looks back to assess the damage inflicted on his stumps by Warne as the England collapse begins to take a familiar shape

Warne maintaining proud tradition

It is alarming how badly England have been out-classed in the third Test match at Old Trafford, and very disappointing. In bringing this about, Australia have come quite into their own. They have got their swagger back, and we know what that means.

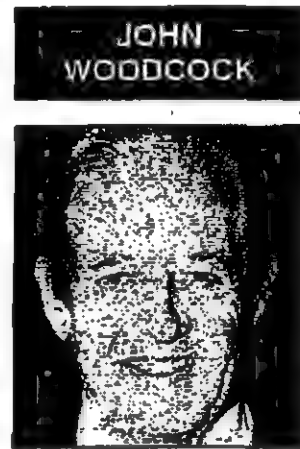
With England so desperate for success, it was natural enough that their victory in the first Test at Edgbaston, taken with their two in New Zealand in February, should be overvalued. The fact of the matter is that it had more than anything to do with their being able to bowl first, and quite a lot to do with Australia's unpreparedness. Given their chance, though, England took it in style. That, unfortunately, put Australia on their mettle, with all too likely consequences.

The Waugh brothers really are infuriatingly good. Although they are twins, they do not look particularly alike and they do not bat at all alike; but they usually make sure, between them, that Australia have enough runs when it matters to stay on top.

In a double-wicket tournament between pairs of Test-

playing brothers, involving the Waughes (Steve and Mark), the Chappells (Ian and Greg), the Pollocks (Graeme and Peter), the Rowans (Eric and Ash), the Kirsens (Peter and Gary), the Mohammads (Hanif and Mushtaq), the Amarnaths (Mohinder and Surinder) and any two of the Ranatunga clan of Sri Lanka, I would not want to oppose the Waughes — unless it was to back the Chappells — but the Rowans and the Pollocks, each with a match-winning bowler, would be hard to beat.

England should have known to beware Australian leg spinners at Old Trafford. They have long excelled themselves there. Bill O'Reilly started it all on the first morning of the third Test match in 1934 when, in one over, he reduced England from 68 for no wicket to 72 for three. He had Walters caught at short leg off a googly, bowled Wyatt first ball and Hammond second ball, Hammond having got four off the inside edge of his first ball. Sutcliffe was still there, though, and, with Hendren, Leyland and Ames to come, England were soon under way again.



Test match Commentary

I can see as though it were yesterday Richie Benaud deciding, but not unceremoniously, to go round the wicket to exploit Fred Trueman's footmarks in the Old Trafford Test of 1961. He did it more or less as a last resort. Needing 256 to win, England were 150 for one at the time with Dexter in full cry; he had made 76 in 84 minutes with Subba Row supporting him staunchly.

It was much less common then than it is now for leg spinners to bowl round the wicket, but it worked at once. Dexter was caught at the wicket, making to square cut. May was bowled first ball, round his legs, and in no time at all the Ashes were back in Australia's keeping. Benaud having taken five for 12 in 25 balls.

Then, in 1993, came Waugh, with his flippers and fizzes and twiddlers and dippers, not to mention his leg breaks and googlies and sverers and top spinners. In juggling terms, he would have six or seven balls in the air at the same time in those days; today, he has only two or three, but it has been more than enough. He is still more accurate than he has any right to be, spinning the ball as he does, and his reputation and rarity value also, of course, count heavily in his favour. Neither O'Reilly nor Benaud were great spinners of the ball in the way that Waugh has been.

Unlike at Lord's, where the slope has its effect, there is no favoured end for leg spinners at Old Trafford. O'Reilly and Benaud took their wickets bowling from the Stretford

End. Warne, on the other hand, was bowling from the Warwick Road End when he bowled Goring with his first ball in a Test match in England — the *balle calibre* that pitched outside the leg stump in one parish and hit the off-stump in another — and he has stuck to it ever since.

In this series, the first signs that, even with a gammy shoulder, a dicky finger and wavering self-confidence, he could still bowl a bit, came at the end of the Test match at Lords, when he picked up the wickets of Hussain and Butcher.

Here at Old Trafford the England think-tank may have played into his hands by seeking to influence the preparation of the pitch. As a general rule, it is safer, I think, and sounder to leave these things to the judgment and good sense of the groundsmen concerned. With a lead in this series before the match started, England could have done with something on which to consolidate, rather than the green and roughish surface that was unveiled last Thursday morning.

Waugh revels in twin challenge to technique and temperament



Waugh salutes his second Old Trafford century

Steve Waugh yesterday became the sixth batsman to score centuries in each innings of an Ashes Test match, of which the game in Manchester is the 288th, but it must be doubtful whether Sutcliffe, Hammond or Compton, of England, or Bardsley and Morris, the Australian left-handers, were playing in conditions of similar adversity, or on more difficult pitches.

Although the one at Old Trafford had eased by the time that Australia batted for a second time, in the early stages it was, in Waugh's own words, "really tough". The chief difficulty was its uneven bounce, which is what caused the severe jarring to his

right hand that rendered him virtually strokeless after tea on Saturday. He said that he could not remember a match in which the ball had thumped into the spine more often.

Waugh has played the role of rescuer countless times in the past four years, his double century in Kingston in 1995 — the only innings he thought fit to compare to his first century here — and 160 in Johannesburg earlier this year only being among the more famous of his match-turning performances. Assuming that Australia finish the job today, all but one of his 14 Test centuries will have been in a winning cause.

Waugh loves nothing more than

Simon Wilde on the batsman who has come to symbolise Australian cussedness

a challenge to his technical skill and psychological resilience. Mentally, he is as indestructible as Viv Richards — old "Smokin' Joe" himself — but it was not always thus.

Carl Rackemann, the former Queensland and Australia fast bowler, who is leading a supporters' group to England and commenting for Channel 9, yesterday recalled the first time that he came across the "cider" of the Waugh twins. Waugh, who was 19, was playing for New South Wales in

the Sheffield Shield final of 1985. "It was something like the third Shield match he had ever played and I had never heard of the bloke," Rackemann said.

"He scored 70-odd and it was fantastic stuff, an innings full of strokes. He even hooked one of us for six. It is a stroke he never plays now, but he did in those days. He may have shown more shots, but even then he had a good technique."

The elimination of the hook stroke was one of the key steps in

Waugh's development, because it cost him dear during a traumatic first series against West Indies in 1988-89. A few months later, he scored a long-overdue first Test century, at Headingley, and it took him only 124 balls, but experience has taught him to carry on paring his game, to the point that here he has batted in eight sessions and scored fewer than 35 in seven of them.

"Shot selection is an issue for all batsmen and Steve has cut out the ones he regards as carrying a risk," Rackemann said. "The change in him is a natural process, a conscious effort to do a better job for his side, but it would be wrong to stereotype him as a grafter. He has

still got all the shots when the occasion demands."

The transition from flamboyant youth to elder statesman is one that many great batsmen have made, the most striking example, in the case of England, being Len Hutton, who in his later years was required to carry the batting almost single-handed.

Waugh has not had to do that for Australia, which may have something to do with the world being slow to acknowledge his extraordinary talents of organisation and discipline. His brother, Mark, Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar may steal more of the headlines, but he is the jewel in the unofficial world champions' crown.

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CRICKET

Burns finds his feet to stun Essex

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Somerset won toss): Somerset (4pts) beat Essex by four wickets

AS THEY proved in their championship encounter, which finished with a day to spare, Somerset were simply too good for Essex, the Axa Life League leaders. The result was as unexpected as it was on Friday.

A career-best innings of 83 by Michael Burns, who hitherto had not made so much as a half-century in this competition for either Warwickshire or his adopted county, enabled them to win with 16 balls to spare.

There is a tenacity about Somerset's cricket that has constantly been apparent in both forms of the game at Chelmsford. It helped, of course, that Mustaq Ahmed was fit again. He took three wickets as, on a perfectly presentable pitch, Essex, who were 74 for one in the fourth over, mustered a total about 40 runs short of what it should have been.

Burns then struck such for three sixes, making his runs off 90 balls. There were other youthful contributions from Holloway, who scored 37, and Lathwell, 34.

On a day on which there was no shortage of competing sporting attractions on television, the Essex ground was virtually full. They have the support and, doubtless, the expertise to acquire sponsorship, to stage a floodlit match.

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ager, said. "Apart from the enormous costs involved and the fact that, for part of the summer, the weather is too cold to sit out late at night, I don't think it has been generally realised what effect the dew has on the grass, the difficulties there are in gaining planning permission and the fact that boys around the age of 12, like our mascot in this match, will not come on their own."

If the crowd was relatively mute yesterday, that was because Essex struggled to bat with any authority. Their cricket against Somerset during the past few days has been curiously insipid. Stuart Law made runs again — 43, including seven fours — but not enough. He was brilliantly caught by Parsons at mid-wicket off Mustaq, who had recovered from a knee injury.

Parsons then laid another fine catch at backward point to account for Grayson. No doubt Dermot Reeve, who does not always appear on Sundays but was organising a practice session before the start yesterday, should take much of the credit for the sharpness of Somerset's fielding. Bowler, their captain, also judged a catch in the deep extremely well.

Rollins made his best score in this form of the game, 38, but if it had not been for a diverting, unbroken last-wicket partnership of 28 in four overs between Iltis and Such, Essex would have struggled to give Somerset a game.

Once Holloway and Burns, who was dropped before he had scored, had put on 88 in the first 15 overs, that was indeed the case. Even though Turner and Bowler went cheaply, this was a straightforward victory.

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Law, of Essex, forces the ball through the off side during his innings of 43

Middlesex tie Lancashire down

BY RICHARD HOBSON

UXBRIDGE (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) tied with Lancashire (2)

LANCASHIRE, requiring 13 runs from the final over for victory, settled for a tie at the culmination of a thrilling game yesterday, after which they are level on points at top of the Axa Life League table.

Warren Hegg scored eight from the first two balls from Richard Johnson to give Lancashire hope of success, but two run-outs then pegged them back. With two runs required from the last ball, Middlesex restricted Lancashire to a bye and the match ended with honours even.

Lancashire were forced to consolidate after losing both openers, Watkinson and Gail-

inn, during Fraser's new-ball spell. When Lloyd drove a ball from Kallis to Brown, the wicketkeeper, they were 40 for three and reliant on Fairbrother to carry them towards their target of 198.

Flintoff, 19, offered the required support. Indeed, he did more than feed the strike to his senior partner and contributed 31 of the 59-run partnership before he found an alert Ramparkash at short mid-on. Another youngster, Chilton, came in ahead of Hegg and Austin, but the scoring rate increased steadily towards the final third of the innings as Lancashire tried to ensure that they had wickets intact when it came to the final assault.

Lancashire have suffered more than most with injuries this season. Wasim Akram has been ordered to rest his injured shoulder, while Martin, the prime mover behind their success in the championship here, left the field yesterday with spasms in his back having delivered just three overs. It was left to Shadford to remove Kallis and Shah in successive overs and, when Ramparkash cut Chilton finally to Gallian at point, Middlesex were 45 for four.

Then followed something of a recovery. Brown and Pooley put on 58 in 13 overs before the former was caught pulling, but Pooley prospered more swiftly as he added 52 in six overs with Moffat. He had scored 73 from 72 balls when he fell leg before to Shadford.

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Kent have edge in low-scoring thriller

BY BARNEY SPENDER

MAIDSTONE (Northamptonshire won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by two runs

THE last time that Kent played Northamptonshire in a one-day match, the Benson and Hedges semi-final at Canterbury, a handsome victory was marred by an outbreak of fistfights among the rival supporters. Yesterday, when the two teams met again in the Axa Life League, the spectators behaved impeccably and, on a glorious day, an intriguing low-scoring game hung in the balance right to the end.

Needing 210 to win, Northants made a solid start through Loye and Penberthy but, after forfeiting three quick wickets, they seemed to lose their way. However, with Rob Bailey still there, they stayed in touch and some mighty hits off Paul Strang left them needing 77 off ten overs.

When Bailey, dropped by Fleming at cover on 45, was trapped leg-before by McCague for 54, the match looked over. However, Sales, with 39 off 24 balls, and Snape, with 22 off 15, made sure that none of the 4,000 crowd went home early. Ten were needed off the last over, but the task proved beyond Snape, who was brilliantly run out by Fleming off the penultimate ball.

Kent began their innings as if they intended to make 300. Ward and Walker led happily on some wayward bowling from Mohammad Akram and Kevin Curran to reach 50 in the eighth over.

The introduction of the two spinners, Snape and Embury, slowed them and frustration saw both openers depart in quick succession for 40. When they attempted to rebuild, Penberthy popped up with three dismissals in one over. Rescue was at hand, however, in the shape of their captain, Steve Marsh, who struck a rapid 39 not out off 26 balls including two huge sixes.

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Swansea v Worcestershire

ARUNDEL (Worcestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by 17 runs

MARTYN BALL, the Gloucestershire off-spinner, took four for 26, his best figures in the competition, to bring Glamorgan back to earth on the day after they went to the top of the county championship. Talk of a double was silenced by a fourth Sunday defeat, which makes it unlikely that they will win the Axa Life League.

Ball brilliantly exploited the pitch, which began to turn extravagantly under the hot

sun, and claimed Glamorgan's first four wickets to leave them in total disaster.

When Young had Maynard leg before, half the side had gone for 71 and although James, with a superb unbeaten 75, and Shaw, who made 48, revived Welsh hopes with a rousing sixth wicket stand of 105 in only 17 overs the damage was done.

It was a wise decision by Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, to bat first on the same pitch on which Glamorgan had destroyed Sussex the week before because there did not seem to be too much

swung with it when Wright and Hancock were laying the foundation for a match-winning total of 236 for 7 with an opening stand of 107.

Hancock rattled up 57 off 63 balls, his highest Sunday score.

Wright had advanced to 69 in 34 overs when a couple of bruising blows on the foot from Thomas and Wagar persuaded him that enough was enough. But quick runs from Young, Lynch and Russell meant that Gloucestershire could afford to lose four wickets for nine runs in the last two overs.

White spearheaded his team's biggest 40-over total, exceeding the 296 for eight against Surrey at the Oval three years ago. His own innings eclipsed that of Rich-

ard Blakes, who made an unbeaten 130 against Kent at Scarborough in 1991.

Leicestershire were unable to contain White's 114-ball flurry, which included ten fours and five sixes. After averaging just 17 in the competition this summer, he relished a perfect one-day pitch that encouraged lavish strokeplay.

A fifth-wicket partnership of 117 in 12 overs between Maddy and Whitaker was the main-spring of Leicestershire's innings. Maddy plundered 70, with 11 fours and a six from 45 balls, while Whitaker's 66

occupied 50 balls as the Yorkshire attack creaked under the pressure.

Stemp, the left-arm spinner, was particularly relieved to see Delcin retrace his steps after making 27 from 11 balls. Stemp conceded three sixes to Delcin before he was bowled by Morris, who returned his best Sunday figures of four for 49.

A total of 40 extras expanded Leicestershire's score, with Hartley the only bowler not to bowl a wide. Wells was the first of Leicestershire's three half-century makers, to forehead a gripping contest.

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Prichard finds the leading edge

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CYCLING

Champion in trouble as Cipollini takes over

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN FORGES-LES-EAUX

CHRIS BOARDMAN'S spell in the Tour de France yellow jersey proved short-lived after a dramatic opening road race in the Pays de Bray region of Normandy yesterday. Boardman was dethroned from race leadership by a virtuoso sprinting performance from Mario Cipollini, the self-styled "Lion King" of Italian cycling, on the tense 192-kilometre stage to Forges-les-Eaux.

Cipollini, 30, the winner of five stages on the Tour of Italy earlier this year, made up his deficit on Boardman after snatching time bonuses through victory at the stage finish and also in a series of intermediate sprints.

However, Bjørn Riis, of Denmark, the defending champion and pre-race fa-

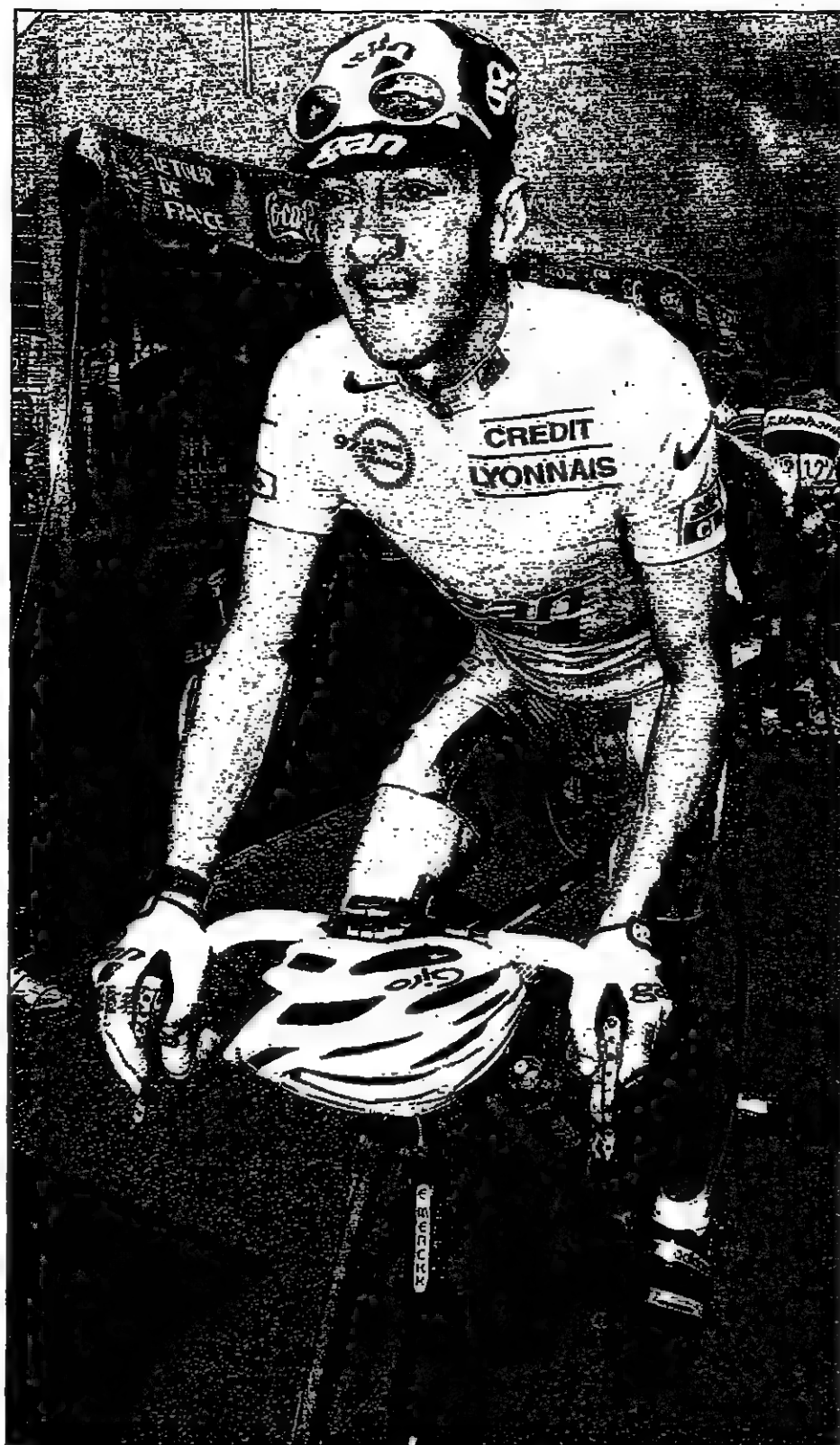
75kph, the trio of pre-race favourites could only limit their losses to about a minute. Boardman, who rode safely across the line in Cipollini's wake, wisely spent most of the afternoon close to the front of the field and was unconcerned by the loss of race leadership. "It would have been futile chasing sprint bonuses against Cipollini," he said. "We wanted to defend the jersey if possible, but the race was too unpredictable to control. I wasn't even aware that there had been a crash when it happened. I was just trying to do my job and stay out of trouble all day."

On Saturday evening, Boardman had fulfilled all expectations in the opening prologue time-trial in Rouen when he overcame a strong headwind to take the overall lead for the second time in four years.

"I'm very relieved," he said after becoming the first Briton to wear the yellow jersey in more than one Tour de France. "There's always lots of pressure during the prologue. Everything depends on what happens in eight minutes. The last time I took the yellow jersey, I didn't really appreciate it, so this is a very special day."

Boardman first led the Tour in 1994 in his debut professional season, but, in 1995, he crashed out of the race on the opening stage and last year suffered the disappointment of losing on the opening day by two seconds. Yet, with time bonuses on offer every day during the Tour's flat first week, Boardman's tenure of professional cycling's most coveted garment was always likely to be temporary, given the numerous opportunities for sprinters such as Cipollini to snatch the lead before the mountain stages.

For the 262-kilometre stage



Boardman prepares to start the first stage yesterday, wearing the yellow jersey

to Vire today, the longest of the Tour, the image-conscious Italian, who once appeared on a winner's podium clad in a white designer suit, will climb aboard a new yellow bike specially built to match his jersey.

While the extrovert Cipollini will look to make the most of his turn of speed in the stages heading south to the Pyrenees, Riis was refusing to panic over the worrying start to his title defence.

"I was disappointed to crash, but it's not the end of the world," Riis said. "I've felt enormous pressure over the past year and it's often been too much. I'm just pleased the race has started at last."

In contrast, Leblanc, who crashed out of the Tour of Italy, was unable to remain philosophical about the setback. "I'm so unlucky, it's unbelievable," he said. "I'm fed up about it all and wonder what I've done to deserve it."

TOUR DETAILS

PROLOGUE (7.3-Mile time trial, Rouen) 1. M. Cipollini (I, Saxo) 10m 55s; 2. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 11m 00s; 3. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 11m 05s; 4. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 11m 10s; 5. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 11m 15s; 6. J. L. Leblanc (F, Festina) 11m 20s; 7. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 11m 25s; 8. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 11m 30s; 9. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 11m 35s; 10. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 11m 40s; 11. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 11m 45s; 12. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 11m 50s; 13. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 11m 55s; 14. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 12m 00s; 15. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 12m 05s; 16. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 12m 10s; 17. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 12m 15s; 18. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 12m 20s; 19. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 12m 25s; 20. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 12m 30s; 21. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 12m 35s; 22. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 12m 40s; 23. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 12m 45s; 24. J. Leblanc (F, Festina) 12m 50s; 25. J. Riis (D, Telekom) 12m 55s; 26. J. Zülle (S, Phonak) 13m 00s; 27. J. Boardman (GB, GAN) 13m 05s; 28. J. 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Springboks come good at the last gasp but are flattered by margin of victory

Bold Lions limp home with heads held high

South Africa 35
British Isles 16

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

IN THE end, the British Isles could not emblazon a memory in the cool night air over Ellis Park on Saturday. They went down in the final match of their tour, trying to play the rugby that has so surprised and enraptured South Africans but failing to discover the vital spark of creativity in midfield that might have unlocked the defence, leaving the relieved Springboks the lift in morale that they need before their tri-nations series begins.

The international series had the aptly-named Lion Challenge Cup, however, goes to the Lions 2-1. The knowledge that their objective had been achieved already will also have played its part in depriving the Lions of that mental edge which threw up so staunch a defence in the two previous games.

This was a messy, thoughtless international, indifferently refereed, until the closing stages, when South Africa scored two tries of genuine quality. It was no coincidence, either, that it was far and away the most ill-disciplined match of the tour. This was the product of a team desperate for success against players who were ill, injured and ill-fated. The morning of the game saw Tim Rodber withdraw with a stomach ailment.

Four South Africans were warned for indiscipline, as was Johnson, the Lions captain, and the relatively unfamiliar sight of players piling into each other littered the game. Garvey, the Natal prop, left the field with blood streaming from a head wound near the end. Amid it all, the nagging feeling remained that, even though they came close to the record 20-point margin of defeat sustained by the 1962 Lions in their final



Guscott: arm injury

international, the 1997 Lions were far from victory.

They took charge of the middle period of the game and pulled up to be trailing only 23-16. No more than five minutes of proper time remained when South Africa's young backs managed at last to use their superior pace effectively, each of the wings scoring a try.

Inconsistent though he has been on this tour, it would have been good to see Gregor Townsend's reaction to this

match. Townsend, the injured Scotland stand-off half, had to take his place as Cant, who tried to bring width into the game rather than taking the ball himself into the yawning gaps left closer to the set-pieces. Had he done so, Cant, who so wanted to be part of a winning XV, would have found Back at his elbow and South Africa might have been opened up.

Instead, the Lions offered themselves up to scything tackles from a defence that, for all the criticism of Carol du Plessis's selection, have conceded only three tries while scoring nine. Even as strong a player as Gibbs found himself cornered, while Bentley's cross-field runs were all up blind alleys. The most penetrative Lions back was Bateman, the replacement for Guscott, who broke a bone in his forearm late in the first half. By that time, Underwood, the one back with genuine pace, had left the field with a strained hip muscle.

At last the Springboks found themselves a reliable goalkicker, too. De Beer gave them the comfort of two early penalty goals from three attempts and the conversion of Montgomery's try. The try was the product of a forward pass between the South Africa half backs, that went unobserved by Wayne Erickson. That the Lions defenders halted in anticipation of a scrum was not to their credit, but it was a vital score that pushed South Africa into a 13-0 lead.

By the interval, however, their demons were back, induced by Jenkins. Three times he aimed at goal — twice after dangerous play — and three times he found the target on his way to a Lions series record of 41 points, passing Gavin Hastings's 38 in New Zealand in 1993.

Another referee might have judged that Rossouw knocked on, as he went for Dawson's clearance soon after the interval, but Erickson decided that the ball had come off his shoulder and the defence was unable to halt Van der Westhuizen's run.

When De Beer converted and added a further penalty goal, South Africa seemed on their way to a comfortable success, but the Lions, in their best phase of the game, reduced the gap. Cant charged down De Beer's kick, Gibbs charged on and Dallaglio, out of position at No 8, and Wainwright both came close before Dawson dummied a way through. Had Bateman's pass



Strydom tries to force his way through the Lions lineout but is held up by Johnson

to Stimpson gone to hand, the South Africa defence might have broken again.

Instead, they produced a classic score of their own. Venter making the charge in midfield going right and Rossouw coming off his wing to go left. He was ankle-tapped, but still able to feed Snyman, and Bentley's tackle came too late to prevent the score. Honiball's presence in midfield gave South Africa a strength that they had lacked and Rossouw, on the end of a chain of passes, always had the beating of Jenkins as he crossed for the fourth.

"I would rate these Lions among the top four in world rugby, along with New Zea-

land, Australia and South Africa," Du Plessis, the South Africa coach, said. "The new approach they have brought must be passed on to the home unions. It's important it doesn't die a sudden death." As these Lions limp home today, drained but fulfilled, that is the challenge for a new British season.

SCORERS: South Africa: Tries: Montgomery, Van der Westhuizen, Snyman, Rossouw. Conversions: De Beer (3). Honiball Penalty goals: De Beer (2). British Isles: Try: Dawson. Conversion: Jenkins. Penalty goals: Jenkins (2).

SOUTH AFRICA: R G Bennis (Scorers), A H Bryman (Northern Transvaal), P Montgomery (Western Province), D van Schalkwyk (Northern Transvaal), P W G Rossouw (Western Province), J H de Beer (Free State), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), J P du Randt (Free State), J Dalton (Gauteng), D P Theron (Gauteng West), J C Erasmus (Free State), J J Strydom (Gauteng), K Oos (Northern Transvaal). A G Venter (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain), Montgomery replaced by H W Honiball (Natal, 59min). Du Randt replaced by A E Oosthuizen (Free State, 70). De Beer replaced by J J Swart (Western Province, 72). Snyman replaced by P J van Heerden (Western Province, 74). Garvey replaced by A E Oosthuizen (Free State, 69). **BRITISH ISLES:** H R Jenkins (Ponyerdy and Wales), J Bentley (Newcastle and England), J S Gibbs (Swansea and Wales), J C Guscott (Bath and England), T Underwood (Newcastle and England), M J Cant (Bath and England), M J S Smith (Northampton and England), T J Smith (Worcestershire and Scotland), M P Regan (Stratford and England), P S Wallace (Scarlets and Ireland), R J Waterwright (Worcestershire / Army and Scotland), M O J W Davidson (London Irish and Ireland), N A Back (Leicester and England), L B N Dallaglio (Worcestershire and England), Underwood replaced by T R G Stimpson (Newcastle and England, 59min). Guscott replaced by A G Bateman (Plymouth and Wales, 47). Dawson replaced by A Healey (Lancashire and England, 58). Referee: W J Erickson (Australia).

Touring team assured of bright future

ROB ANDREW



At Ellis Park

Many people believed that this tour would be the last by the British Isles and that it would determine whether the Lions could and would continue in the professional era. The tour to New Zealand in 1993 was disappointing, there were question marks then and before coming to South Africa over how the Lions fit into the new era. No longer.

However, we still have to look at when a Lions tour should fit in and how long the season is, because the vast amount of these players are going on to Australia with England. When they return, they will have two weeks off and then be expected to start training for the new season. That cannot continue. Everybody in the professional game has to get together and look at what is best.

On this tour, the Lions have made a statement that they still have an important part to play in the game. The players, supporters and sponsors all want it and you have got to give credit to this group for having achieved that, because they have probably saved Lions rugby for the future.

The third international itself proved just too much. With ten minutes left, the Lions were still in the game at 23-16, but the mental and physical effort that they had put in on the tour took its toll. It was a magnificent match, which ebbed and flowed. The great thing about the Lions was that their effort was phenomenal even if some of the attacking play from both sides was a bit loose.

The Lions had said that they wanted to play some positive rugby. They did that to a degree, but they were not as clinical as they had been in the provincial games. They made an awful number of mistakes, particularly in the first 20 minutes, trying to play this style of rugby at international level, and the pace meant that they were making errors and forcing passes.

They gave the initiative to the Springboks in the first quarter. Unfortunately, they scored only one try because the Springbok defence was so good. If the Lions had kept more continuity and not forced too many things, they would have done better. They made it a bit too easy for the Springboks, but, despite that, the South Africans were flattered by the scoreline.

If it had finished 23-16, that would have been a fair reflection, but, when playing the type of rugby that the Lions were trying to play when behind, especially in the second half, there is always a

danger of letting in a couple of tries and that is what happened — two breaks, good finishing, but, by the 76th minute, there were some very tired bodies.

The referee was not good, either. The Lions were not happy having Wayne Erickson as the referee and he made some very poor decisions and let the South Africa forwards get away with a lot of skulduggery. The first try was ridiculous — the ball clearly went a long way forward and Jannie de Beer was standing four yards in front of Joost van der Westhuizen when he picked up the ball and passed for the try. A lot of decisions did not go with the Lions, but international rugby is all about swings and roundabouts. They had a lot of luck the previous week — on Saturday it did not go their way.

Overall, it has been a magnificent tour for British rugby and for world rugby. The southern hemisphere needs Britain to be strong, otherwise it becomes a three-horse race — and people will lose interest. They have been refreshing in the way they have taken the game to the opposition and they have given British rugby a boost because we have shown that we have some very talented players.

It is difficult to single out individuals. Not one player has let himself down — but a few players deserve a mention. Tom Smith is one, Paul Wallace another, also Jeremy Davidson, Neil Back and Eric Miller, although he did not play much in the internationals — and Scott Gibbs lived up to his reputation. It has been one of those tours where everybody performed to the top of his game, which is why they have been able to win the series if not complete a whitewash. Not even New Zealand managed that last year.

Anxious Rowell waits to count final cost

JACK ROWELL, the England coach, will count anxiously tomorrow the number of British Isles players arriving in Sydney to join the preparations for the international on Saturday with Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium (David Hands writes). The swathe of injuries accumulated during the last fortnight of the Lions' tour has reduced considerably the players whom he hoped to have available.

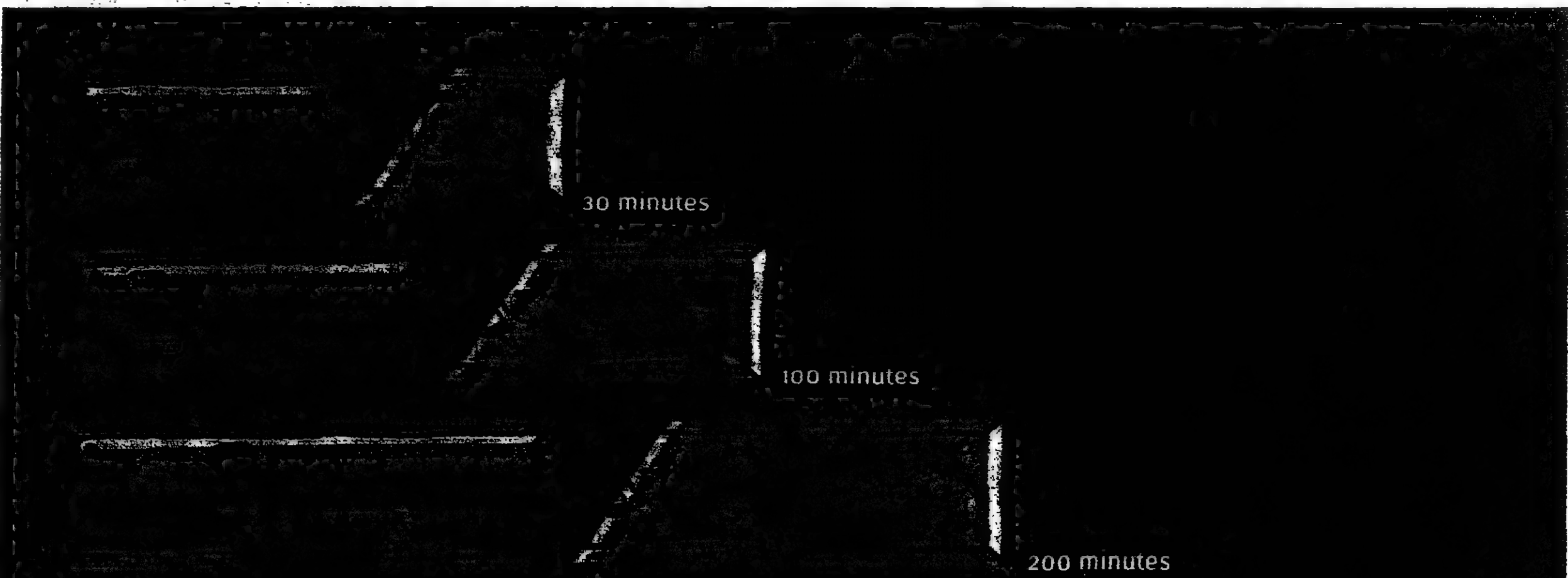
Tony Underwood, who damaged a hip muscle during the third and final international against South Africa, hopes to travel. The withdrawals through injury include Martin Johnson, Jason Leonard, Kyran Bracken and Will

Greenwood, as well as Jeremy Guscott, who opted for domestic reasons not to go on to Australia, before breaking a bone in his left forearm on Saturday.

That will deprive England of a hard core of experience. Johnson, though he insists that he has suffered no inconvenience, probably faces a groin operation, and Bracken's shoulder injury, sustained in Welkom last Tuesday, has caused him discomfort. Nor will there be any comfort in the fact that Jason Little should have recovered from a damaged hip in time to play in the Australia match, instead of the injured Pat Howard.

Another referee might have judged that Rossouw knocked on, as he went for Dawson's clearance soon after the interval, but Erickson decided that the ball had come off his shoulder and the defence was unable to halt Van der Westhuizen's run.

When De Beer converted and added a further penalty goal, South Africa seemed on their way to a comfortable success, but the Lions, in their best phase of the game, reduced the gap. Cant charged down De Beer's kick, Gibbs charged on and Dallaglio, out of position at No 8, and Wainwright both came close before Dawson dummied a way through. Had Bateman's pass



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RACING: JOCKEY COUNTS COST OF TACTICAL MISTAKE WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO DEFEAT OF FAVOURITE IN BIG RACE AT SANDOWN

Fallon loses ride on Bosra Sham in wake of Eclipse

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

KIEREN FALLON will not ride Bosra Sham again after the tactical blunder which contributed to her defeat in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park on Saturday. Under the terms of her contract, Fallon, who is now looking for a more experienced big-race jockey, not only for Bosra Sham, the outstanding winner of last year's 1,000 Guineas and Champion Stakes, but also Lady Carla, his other classic winning filly, who runs in the Princess of Wales Stakes at Newmarket tomorrow.

Although Fallon's mistake, which involved going for an impossible run between Benny The Dip and the rail at a vital stage of the race, costed the jockey's fate, it is known there has been concern for a few weeks about his inability to ride some horses in Henry Cecil's yard.

The prompt decision will inevitably focus attention on the future of Fallon as Cecil's stable jockey, especially as the ten-times champion trainer yesterday gave vent in the strongest possible terms to his

intense disappointment at Bosra Sham's defeat. Although he did not mention Fallon by name, Cecil left no doubt as to whom he blames for the upset involving the best horse he has trained.

"She was very well and had never been better in her life," Cecil said. "In the circumstances she might as well have stayed at home. She was asked the impossible and you can't do that. She has had a hard race for nothing. Bosra Sham has come out of the race as well as you could expect but

her pride has obviously been denied. She has been abused, hasn't she? I think it is very sad. Disappointing is the word."

Immediately after the race, Cecil watched a television replay on a screen outside the Sandown weighing-room and shook his head in disbelief as Fallon made his ill-fated move just under three furlongs from the winning post. After failing to get through on the inside of Benny The Dip, Fallon was forced to snatch up the filly before pulling to the outside — by which time Pilsudski, the winner, had flown.

It is difficult to say after such a tactical race with a slow early pace whether, without the error of judgment, Bosra Sham would have beaten Pilsudski. What is certain is that Fallon's folly prevented her from having a chance of winning.

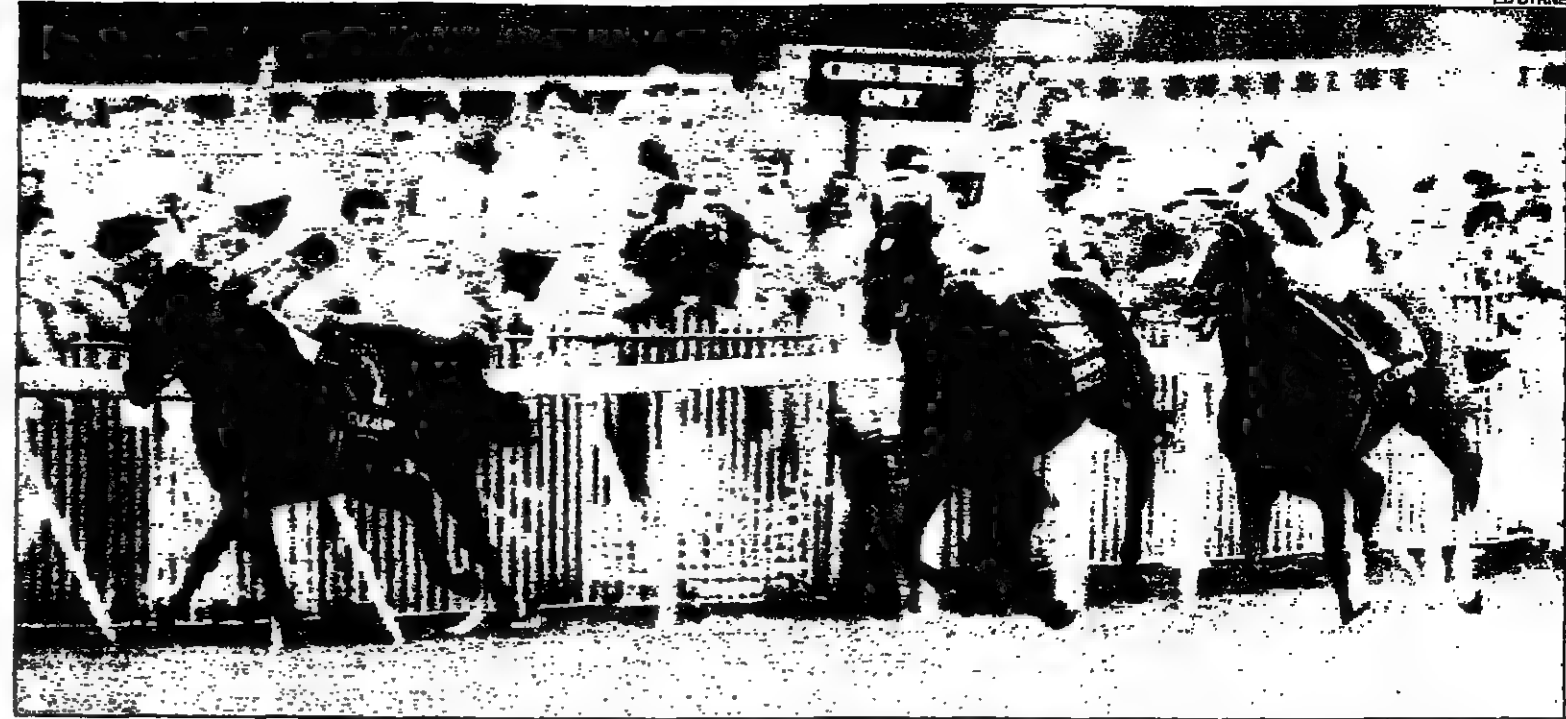
However, Cecil was in no doubt the outcome would have been different had she been ridden otherwise. He was reported as saying: "She was beaten a length and a quarter. If she had ridden she would

have won six lengths. I am not going to say who is to blame, it is obvious. I think the whole thing is so appalling and if people don't have the eyes to see it should not go racing but go to the theatre or something else instead."

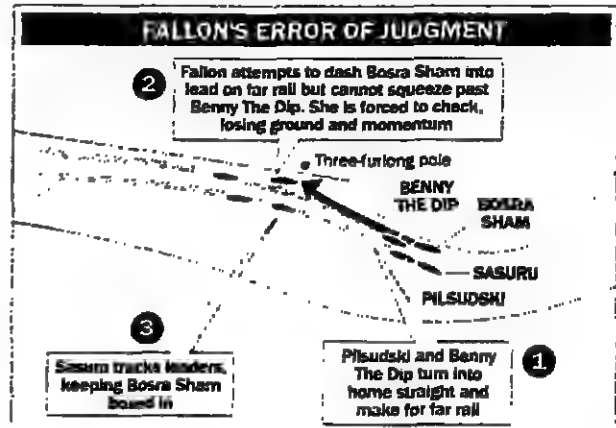
A dejected Fallon insisted his tactics had not cost Bosra Sham the hundredth running of the Eclipse. He said the slow early gallop, combined with being trapped on the rail behind Benny The Dip and Pilsudski, with Sasuru on his outside, presented him with a predicament. "I had to challenge when I did. There was no

gallop and there was no point sitting any longer. Michael Hills [on Sasuru] was on my outside so I could not go out there. The only way to go was where there was a gap. Take a close look and see what I could have done."

Although it is always easy to be wise after the event, Fallon's problems arose from allowing himself to be boxed in shortly after the start's opening. Had he made sure Bosra Sham, rather than Pilsudski, tail-bitten Benny The Dip he would have avoided traffic problems and could, as Cecil would expect to be suggest-



Pilsudski takes an eventful Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park on Saturday from Benny The Dip and Bosra Sham, right



ing, have made the running if he thought the early pace was too slow.

Pat Eddery, who rode Bosra Sham and Lady Carla when they won their respective classics, is the likely favourite to take over from Fallon — if and when he is available. Tomorrow, he is booked to ride Celeric, the Gold Cup winner, who cannot partner Lady Carla.

Fallon was beaten into second on Baron in the group one BMW Deutsches Derby at Hamburg yesterday. Borgia, one of Bruno Schuster's five runners, prevailed by a neck.

Sandown Park

Going: good to soft, good in places.
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50% off adventure sports

WATERBOGIE FROM BALLOONING • BUNGEE JUMPING
WATERBUNGEE • GYROCOPTER • KAYAKING AND WHITE-
WATER RAFTING • CANOE • FOUR WHEEL DRIVING • GO-
KARTING • MOTORBIKE • MOTORBIKE • ROCK
CLIMBING • PARACHUTING • SAND SURFING • RALLY DRIVING
• SKI • SKI • BOARDING • WINDSURFING

Today *The Times* offers you a selection of adrenaline-inducing adventure sports throughout Britain this summer with discounts of 50 per cent off normal prices. You can choose from more than 15 activities taken anytime before September 30, 1997. Details of these offers, which are subject to availability, will appear in *The Times* each day until Saturday. All you have to do is collect four tokens from *The Times* and attach them to the voucher below. Then book your visit in advance directly with the relevant company. When you make your payment forward your voucher and tokens to validate your discount. Readers are responsible for taking out their own holiday and accident insurance cover.

A FREE scuba diving lesson

Times readers can take advantage of a special try-dive offer with the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), the biggest diving organisation in the UK, between August 11-17 inclusive. Normally the lesson, which will last almost two hours, costs £15. A try-dive gives you the chance to sample the fabulous sport of scuba diving. Wherever you are in the UK, the BSAC, which is renowned for its high standard of training, has a school near where you can have your FREE try-dive. You will have poolside tuition from a qualified instructor teaching you how to communicate and breathe underwater before being kitted out with the necessary diving gear. If you want to take your diving to the next stage you can train to a Novice I and II standard at the school which costs from £200-£250. This will enable you to dive in the sea. For your FREE try-dive all you have to take is your swimming costume and a towel. Simply collect four out of the six tokens in *The Times* this week and call the British Sub-Aqua Club on Freephone 0500 947 202 to register with your nearest participating BSAC school. Present your four differently numbered tokens when you take your dive.

Go trial racing at half price

The world of motorsport is available to you at a 50% discount. The venues where you can try out your Nigel Mansell skills include world famous corners like Paddock Hill Bend at Brands Hatch and Lodge at Oulton Park. Experience for yourself how it feels to race along just inches from the ground in a single-seater. After a thorough briefing on safety and racing technique, a skilled, professional, instructor will accompany you around the circuit at near-racing speeds. Then you will be on the track again, this time on your own, going into rapid acceleration and razor-sharp handling.

For bookings at both Brands Hatch, Kent, and at Oulton Park, Cheshire, call 0990 125 250.

THE TIMES ADVENTURE SPORTS VOUCHER

Send this form with the necessary number of differently numbered tokens to the address of the adventure sport you want to take up.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

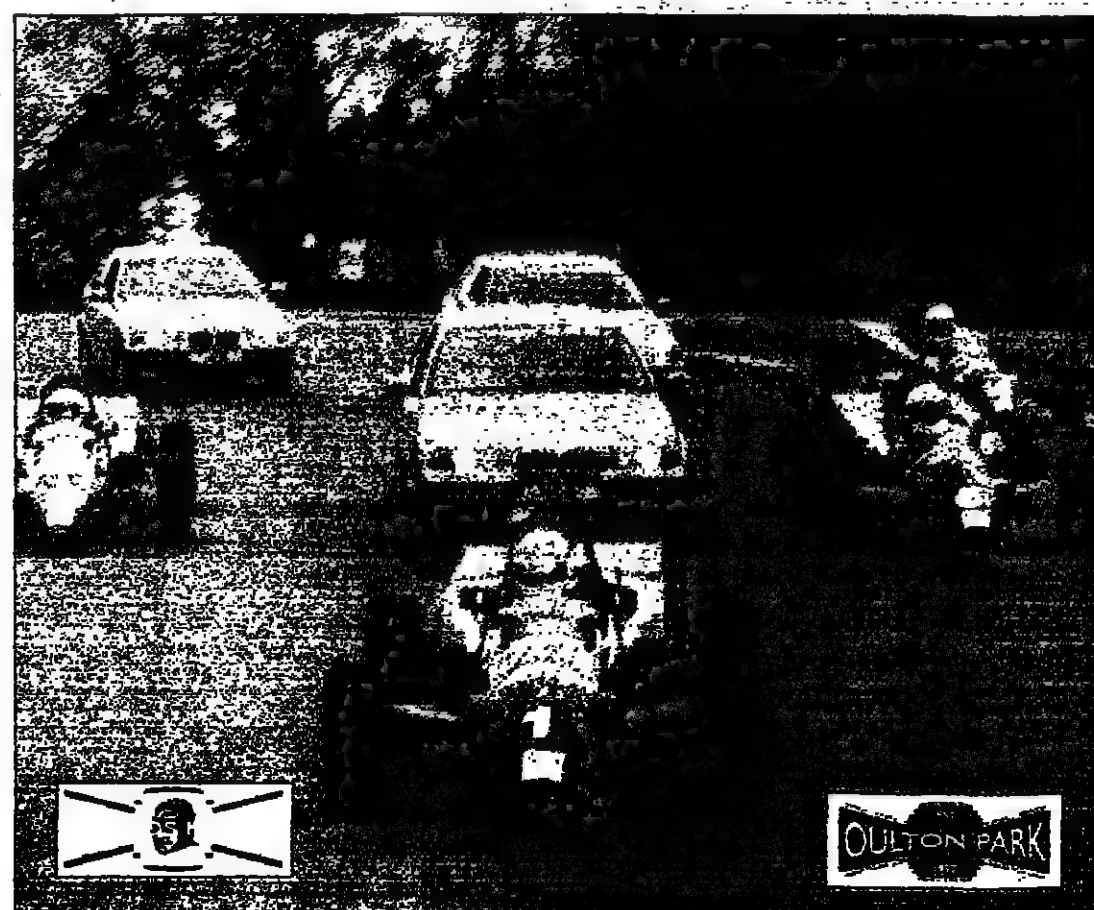
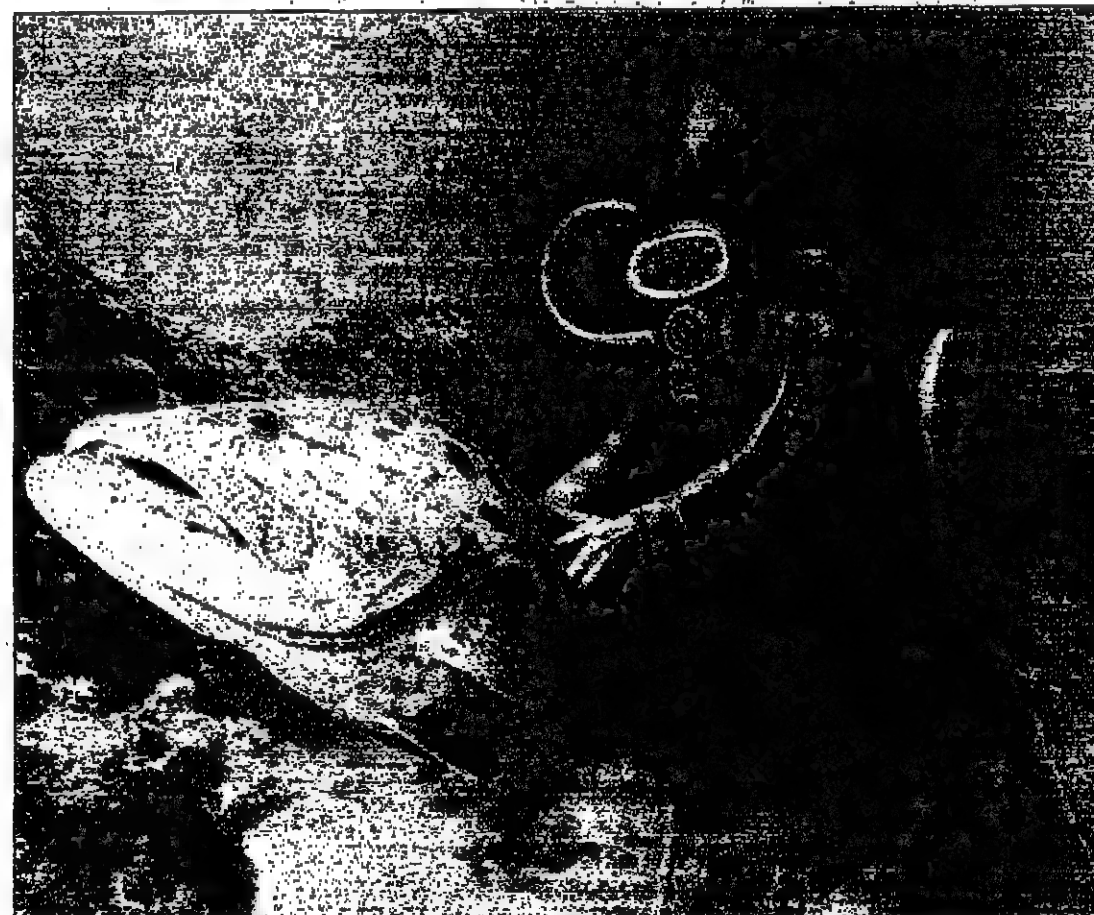
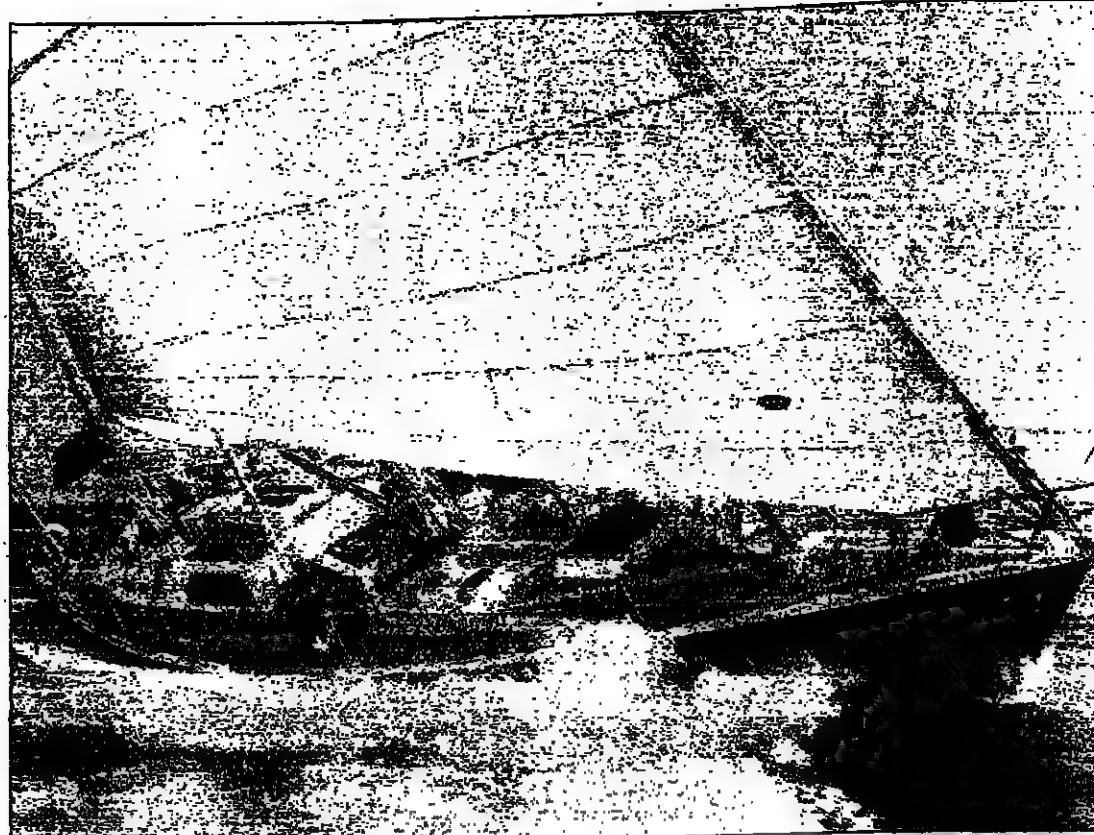
Day Tel Evenings

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

THE TIMES Adventure sports TOKEN

Offer: Initial Trial Racing, two hours, using race-prepared BMW 318i (two seater) for training then Formula First single-seater. Offer includes tuition, insurance and photo.

PLUS an Early Drive Programme for accompanying junior (aged 12-17), a Learn to Drive starter course on a specially prepared area with "real" driving experience. Weekday £110 (£235), weekend £130 (£260).



Christian Dymond gets on his bike and enters an orienteering event at Kielder Castle in Northumberland

Saddle up for the forest challenge

From 300 yards away the map distribution point looked like a bad road accident. Three dozen cyclists were played out on the ground with their mountain bikes lying beside them, as if the leader had braked sharply and the others had piled into the back of him.

By the time I reached the group the picture had become a lot clearer. The cyclists were busy poring over maps that they had just been given and were plotting their routes before heading off into the great expanse of Kielder Forest in Northumberland.

Some of the competitors started with a long, steep incline to the north east in the general direction of Deadwater Moor while others aimed for Bloody Bush towards the south west. This was Trailquest, a form of orienteering by bicycle and, whatever direction they chose, they had five hours in which to get around as many of the 21 control points as possible. Each of these control positions had a score value and excess time meant a deduction from the total, one point off for every minute late.

The event was called the Kielder Reiver, one of about 40 Trailquest events taking place this year from February to November. A number of them have two separate rides of differing times: one of about five hours for serious riders, and a shorter ride aimed at family and leisure cyclists. The next one is on Sunday at Glyncorrwg near Swansea.

Polaris, which manufactures cycle clothing, also holds three weekend events during the year. The latest, held in the Dalby Forest on the North Yorkshire Moors last month, closed its entries at 1,350 people. There are fun courses as well. Two of Polaris's weekend events, in March and October, involve camping out overnight.

Orienteering by mountain bike is a fast-growing sport. "It's all things to all people. It can be as hard as it needs to be for extremely competitive athletes, while for families who just want to enjoy themselves it's a great deal of fun," says Roger Dillon, managing director of Polaris, who got the idea for the weekend competitions from the two-day Karmor International Mountain Marathon.

Colin Palmer, co-ordinator of the Trail Cyclists Association (TCA), says: "We like to use a mix of forest and bridleway, so enjoyment of the countryside is very much part of the sport. There are substantial numbers of people who go to events just for a ride in a new part of the country."

At Kielder, my approach was leisurely in the extreme, but the two who had persuaded me to try the sport — John Johnson and Roy Holmes — were quite obviously serious contenders. "We don't intend to stop apart from the control points, although we won't get round all of them because it's impossible," Roy said.

Riding together and with a combined age of over 80, they were entered in the



veteran pairs class. "If you're competing on a serious level you need to be very good at orienteering and decision-making and have plenty of stamina," John said. "On rough terrain we might average 14-16 kilometres an hour but in a place like Kielder with good forest tracks our speed can almost double that."

Apart from the class he was participating in, there were also categories for solo men (17 years and over), solo ladies, veterans (40 years and over), men's pairs, ladies' pairs, mixed pairs and generation pairs (one person 30 years and over and one person aged 12-16).

Most TCA events will accept entrants on the day, but at Kielder this was not the case. The 254 competitors had returned their entry forms plus an £8 fee (non-TCA members £10) two weeks earlier. On the morning of the event they turned up to register at the time allotted them by the organisers.

Check-in was Kielder Castle, where everyone's gear was scrutinised to make sure that it complied with the rules. Each Trailquest event is planned slightly differently, but at Kielder you needed waterproof clothing, an Ordnance Survey Sheet 80 for the forest, basic first-aid kit,

emergency rations such as an energy bar and a drink, a whistle (three sharp blasts is the recognised distress signal), compass, wristwatch, puncture outfit and tool kit. Cycle helmets had to be worn.

At the check-in every team was handed a circular control card, divided into segments relating to each one of the control positions. Later, when competitors got to these points, there was a punch to mark the card. Each punch had a distinct marking and at the end of the race the Forestry Commission organisers checked every card.

The starting point for the event was about half a mile from Kielder Castle but even then — after setting off at the designated time — there was still about a mile to ride to the map distribution point.

Competitors spent little more than a few minutes plotting their routes. "You have to decide which is the most efficient way round because often there are several ways to get to the same point," Roy said. "One route might be a kilometre longer but still quicker because it's flatter."

Each control point was marked with a grid reference on a detailed map of Kielder. In other Trailquest events you might just be given a grid reference and have to work out the location yourself. As certain control points attracted a bigger score than others, the trick was to get around as many of them as possible. The higher scoring control points were often those which necessitated a fairly punishing ride.

At control point five, David Jeffries and David Bickerdike from the North of Tyne Search and Rescue team were taking the numbers of every competitor who passed their way, so that if someone got lost organisers would know their last position and what time they had checked in there.

Cyclists diligently clipped their cards and some took the opportunity to have a quick snack before heading off again. "A lot of these people are so fit they look as if they could cycle to London and back," David Bickerdike said. The return distance from Kielder would probably be about 700 miles.

It was somewhere approaching control point five that John and Roy sped past me as I was pushing my bike up a hill. By the end they had managed to cover 78 kilometres, visit 13 control points and run up 73 points out of a total 125. The points tally gave them first place in the veteran pairs class and a prize of two fleece cycling jackets.

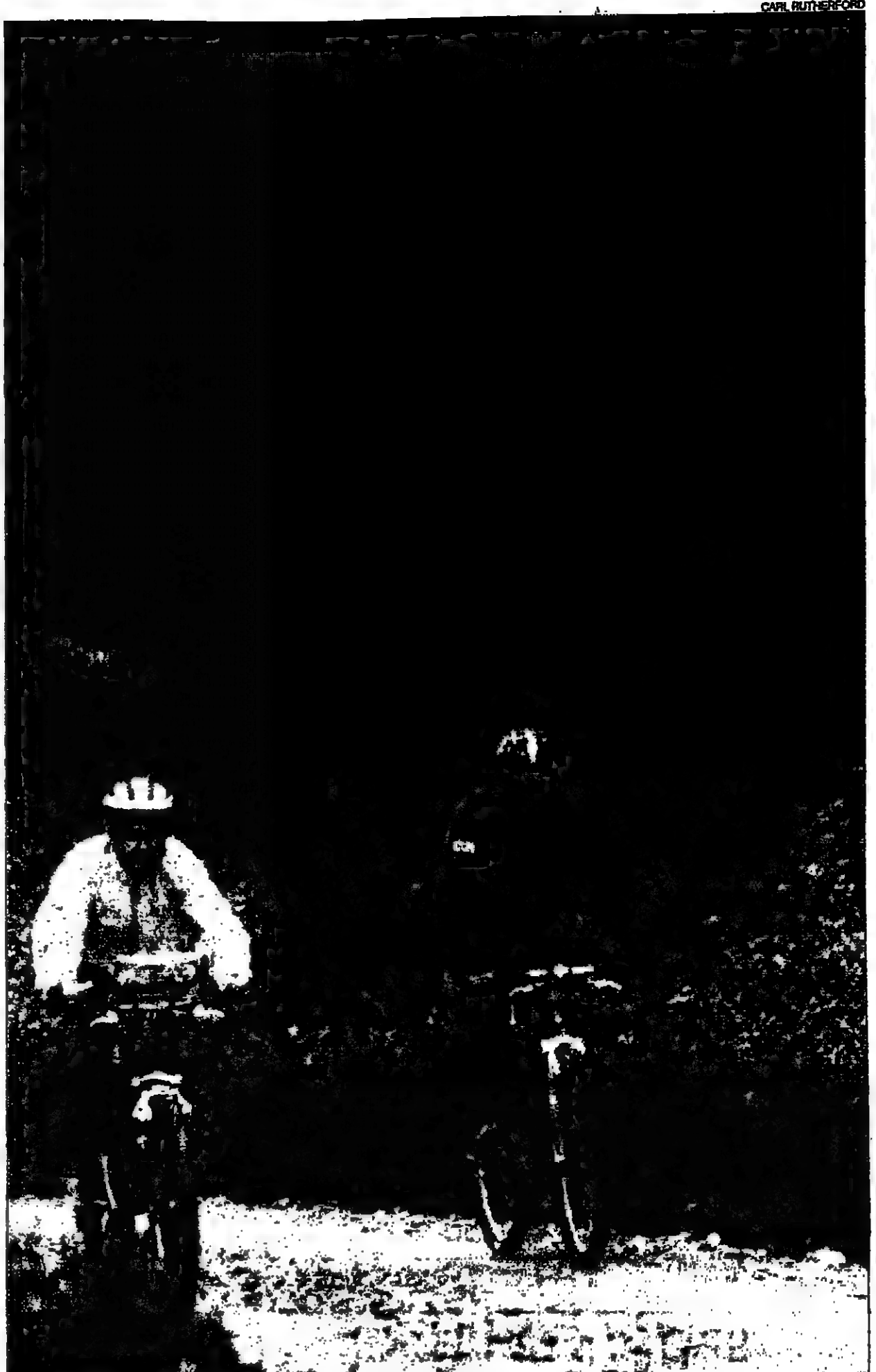
But in a way everyone had their reward. Not only was there the joy of riding through forest and open countryside in reasonable weather and at whatever speed people felt most comfortable, but at the end of the five hours the organisers offered us all a banana, a roll and a quantity of piping hot, thick vegetable soup. The heavens opened shortly afterwards.

HOW TO ENTER

Trail Cyclists Association information line: 01531 632650.

July 13: Trailquest event at Glyncorrwg near Swansea. Five-hour event, totally off-road with 27 control points. Entry fee is £9 per person. Price includes map with all control points marked. This will be given to people at the start. Event centre is Resolven Rugby Club. Start times from 9.30am to 11am. Inquiries 01531 636247.

October 11-12: Polaris Challenge. As this is an overnight event, tent and sleeping bags are required. The location is not released until two weeks before the event. There are different classes for riders, who must be accompanied for safety reasons. Entries will be closed at 1,000 competitors. The cost is £40 for two people. For details contact Event Secretary, 87 Hollin Spring Avenue, Dronfield, near Sheffield, S18 6RP. Information on all Polaris events 01246 240218.



Pedal-power: a pair of competitors thunder along the trail in the Dalby Forest near Pickering, North Yorkshire

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The American Mike Lawrence is generally considered to be one of the world's leading bridge writers and teachers. He has recently diversified into bridge software with *Counting at Bridge* (in association with Fred Gitelman), an interactive tuition program. Two of his books, *How to Read Your Opponent's Cards* and *The Complete Book of Overcalls* were named "Book of the Year" when they were published. He is, of course, no mean player having been a founder member of the Dallas Aces with three Bermuda Bowls to his credit. The following hand was one of his contributions to the excellent *Daily Bridge Calendar*.

Dealer West East-West Game

♠ K876	♥ 986	♦ A73	♣ 84
♠ Q10	♥ AKJ7	♦ 854	♣ K1072
♠ A52	♥ 1052	♦ Q86	♣ A96

Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: King of hearts

West leads the king of hearts followed by the ace of hearts and a third heart to East's queen. East switches to the three of clubs to the jack and king and a club is returned to the queen and ace. How should declarer play spades? The answer is that he should postpone the decision and first take the diamond finesse. When East turns up with that card, declarer can count West for eight points in hearts and three in clubs, eleven in total. Surely he would need the queen of spades to make up a vulnerable opening bid. In addition, had East held the queen of spades in addition to the seven points he is already known to hold he would probably have responded One No-Trump. Declarer should cash the ace and king of spades. Mike Lawrence starts a tour of the UK today. He will visit the Home Counties, Ireland, Scotland and Cardiff. If you would like to attend one of his seminars, ring Chess & Bridge on 01738 2404 for details.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- NIMMER
a. A Dutch hoe
b. A lagan rock
c. A thief
- PLURIES
a. The Rain Gods
b. A writ
c. A lung disease
- NUBECULA
a. A mote
b. A kerchief
c. A Roman matron's clientele
- NOYADE
a. Drowning
b. Almond gougat
c. Negation

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Manchester Grammar retained the British Schools Championship, sponsored by The Times, which took place in the Charing Cross Hotel, London, on Friday. On the upper boards Manchester suffered at the hands of the Pert twins, who are already of international standard. However, on the middle and lower boards Manchester more than made up for this and emerged the winners by a clear point. I awarded the best game prize to Nicholas Pert for his brilliant attack in the following game. I was particularly impressed by the way in which he calmly allowed White to promote a pawn to a knight with check in the middle of the attack and also by the way in which Black utilised his own king as a long range attacking piece.

White: David Thompson
Black: Nicholas Pert
Times Schools, 1997

French Defence

1 e4	e6
2 d4	d5
3 Nc3	Bd4
4 e5	c5
5 Bc2	Ab6
6 dxc5	Ng6
7 Qc4	Bxc5
8 Bc3	Nb4
10 0-0-0	Nc3+
11 cxd3	Bd7
12 b4	h5
13 Qc3	b5
14 Bc3	Be7
15 Ne2	b4
16 Nc4	b3
17 Nc3	Bc3
18 Kd1	Bc3
19 a3	Qd7

White to play. This position is from the game Dely-Hajj, Hungary 1954. White is trying to deliver mate on g7 but it looks as if Black has covered this threat and is on the verge of consolidating his extra piece. How did White continue?

Solution on page 45

THE TIMES WINNING MOVES

White to play. This position is from the game Dely-Hajj, Hungary 1954. White is trying to deliver mate on g7 but it looks as if Black has covered this threat and is on the verge of consolidating his extra piece. How did White continue?

Solution on page 45

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed here, listed their golf days for the year 1997. Companies with additional courses on the day will firm the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

For entry details you can either:

- 1 TELEPHONE 0171 403 7273
- 2 FAXBACK ON 0660 600667
- 3 ACCESS THE INTERNET SITE ON <http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorp/golf/>

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
4 JUL	ALC TELECOM	OLD THORNES	36
4 JUL	ALUNUSSE UK LTD	WORFIELD	40
4 JUL	AMICO EUROPE LIMITED	COULSON MAISON HOTEL	35
4 JUL	BENSON MCGILVEY HENDERSON	MOTTS	24
4 JUL	INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE	MOOR PARK	100
4 JUL	LAND TECHNIUM UK	WELCOMBE HOTEL	48
4 JUL	M M LTD	INVERGORDON	24
4 JUL	MARSHALL THOMAS KING LIMITED	GLENGARLES HOTEL	36
4 JUL	RIERILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL BANK LTD	WENTWORTH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	36
4 JUL	PETROLINK WELLSYSTEMS LTD	RIEDEL	40
4 JUL	REGENCY OFFICE EQUIPMENT	RHOOMANS PARK	45
4 JUL	SECHORT INDUSTRIES LTD	SEEDY HILL	20
4 JUL	SIRTH BARNEY EUROPE	WELDON PARK	40
4 JUL	STYRONIA LIMITED	NEWBAGGON	25
4 JUL	THE PRESS HOUSE LTD	BARTON-ON-SEA	20
4 JUL	THE STATUS GROUP	BUCKINGHAM PARK	20
4 JUL	WATSON WYATT PARTNERS	ST BEGGIES HILL	18
4 JUL	WOODCHESTER CORPORATE LIMITED	ABBEYDALE	32
5 JUL	ALPHA PRECISION ENGINEERING (POOLE) LTD	PARKSTONE	24
5 JUL	BANK GEREISCHAFT BERLIN	THE HERTFORDSHIRE	24
5 JUL	SEDDONS PACKAGING & PRINTING	WIMBORNE HEATH	32
6 JUL	PHENOM YAMAHA	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	118
7 JUL	ARTHUR ANDERSEN	TANDRIDGE	30
7 JUL	DFDS TRANSPORT LIMITED	STONE BY NATLAND	30
7 JUL	PERSONA PLC	OLD THORNES	30
7 JUL	PRICE WATERHOUSE	WOBURN	45
7 JUL	PRICE WATERHOUSE	HAMMURY MANOR	25
7 JUL	TAYTONS SOLICITORS	ROLLS OF MORMOUTH	12
7 JUL	THE RANGLEY CO (C.I.) LTD	SANDMARTINS	18
7 JUL	W S S EVENTS LTD	GLIMFORD GOLF CLUB	100
8 JUL	EPSON MEDICAL SERVICES	HAG COUNTRY CLUB	15
8 JUL	FRENKEL TOPPING	MANCHESTER	45
8 JUL	GREENWOODS SOLICITORS	ELTON FURZE	32
8 JUL	HONEYWELL	THE OXFORDSHIRE	42
8 JUL	JBA (UK) LIMITED	POWILLS	60

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

CITROEN 34 WATERFORD CRYSTAL GOLF WORLD Marriott

مكتبات الامم المتحدة

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: AG Barr, Low & Bonar, Finesse, British Bloodstock, Budgets, Carole Engineering, Tomkins, Economies UK May industrial, manufacturing output, CBI financial services survey, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: M&W, Division Group, Finesse, Bespak, GEC, International Greenings, Marston Thompson & Eveshead, Parland Group, Precat Industries, Triplex Lloyd, Economics, UK June retail price index, German June unemployment figures, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills.

WEDNESDAY

Finals: British Biotech, Dixons Group, Farepak, FI Group, Marling Industries, Economies: Bank of England monetary policy council meets, US Treasury auction of ten-year notes.

THURSDAY

Interims: Kleinwort Charter, Robert H Lowe, Sillis Group, Finesse: Barrowwood Brewery, Cadocentra Group, Truck Holdings, Fletcher King, Helton Holdings, Helical Bar, Peel Holdings, Phonelink, William Ransome, Economies: Bank of England monetary policy committee meets, Bank of England announces repo rate, Bundesbank news conference after central council meeting, US weekly claims.

FRIDAY

Finals: Aberforth Split Level, Trust, Lawrence, Merrydown, Priem Leisure.

FOUR STAR RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.38	2.18
Belgium F	21.72	20.17
Canada C	2.48	2.28
Cyprus Cyp	0.512	0.548
Denmark D	11.78	10.27
Finland F	0.51	0.51
France F	12.48	10.27
Germany D	8.11	8.28
Greece G	480	482
Hong Kong \$	18.78	17.27
Ireland P	1.18	1.28
Italy L	16.27	15.27
Japan Yen	305.40	292.40
Malaysia M	0.88	0.88
Netherlands G	3.58	3.28
New Zealand \$	2.58	2.41
Norway N	12.58	12.21
Portugal P	310.00	288.00
S. Africa R	8.28	7.40
Spain P	280.00	242.00
Sweden S	15.78	12.78
Switzerland F	15.78	12.78
Turkey L	281.00	242.00
USA \$	1.78	1.61

Source: Reuters, London. Bank rates only as recorded in Reuters. All rates are subject to change. Please see at close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

Simpson focuses on a refocus



Buyers are looking for signals that George Simpson has begun the task of refocusing GEC

GEC: Speculative buying has pushed the share price sharply higher in recent weeks. It has come up from 340p to 380p, buoyed by hopes that the new management under George Simpson, chief executive, has begun the task that he was brought in to mastermind — refocusing the company and shaking off GEC's image as a sleepy giant.

Last week's hurried departure of David Newlands and the proposed \$8 billion acquisition of Northrop Grumman by Lockheed has focused attention on the group ahead of tomorrow's full-year figures. It will no doubt revive speculation about a merger with British Aerospace at some stage.

Talk in the Square Mile suggests that Simpson may have a few surprises up his sleeve and that the statement on trading may be accompanied by a number of deals, including disposals.

The figures themselves are unlikely to be spectacular, with most brokers forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £1 billion. Earnings per share are likely to show a small decline from 23.2p to 23.1p.

The final outcome will of course be dictated by currency fluctuations. NatWest Securities, the broker, believes that much of the concern surrounding this has been overdone and that the damage is likely to be limited to £80 million. Much of this is taken up by the translation of profits at GEC-Alsthom, which provides about 20 per cent of group profits. This will offset any improvement at Marconi which should be relatively unaffected by the strength of the pound. The bulk of its order book is sourced in this country. Trading at GPT remains strong.

Brokers say the problem facing Simpson is how to shape all three businesses into a world-class operation. The options appear limited.

Those same brokers will no doubt want to know from Mr Simpson about the options for Marconi if the Thomson-CSF privatisation does not go ahead in France. Most observers believe that he will structure similar ventures in this country and the US.

Cash reserves are expected to have declined by about 12 per

cent to £2.3 billion. The payout should grow by 5 per cent from 12.5p to 13.1p.

TOMKINS: The group has managed to overcome the problems of currency translations faced by most other manufacturing companies by hedging ahead until April next year at \$1.62. But this has not stopped brokers trimming their profit numbers recently after evidence of disappointing trading at the group's cycles and mowers division in the US.

Even so, Tomkins is expected to weigh in with an impressive set of numbers when it reveals full-year figures this morning.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £430 million, compared with £322.9 million last time. That is a rise of about a third. The improvement in earnings is likely to be less spectacular. Brokers are looking for 20.6p a share compared with 18.7p last time, a rise of 10 per cent, but that falls to just 6 per cent after stripping out currency gains.

Trading overall at the gun-tobams group has been patchy. Mower sales were flat and Murray, the cycles business, suffered as it turned away lower-margin business. The rest of the US operations made headway as did Ranks Hovis McDougall in the UK. Gates should have also

achieved a useful improvement in margins.

The profit of £200 million achieved on the disposal of Ferraris are likely to offset similar provisions needed for the disposal of half a dozen other businesses.

Shareholders will receive a 13 per cent rise in the payout from 9.95p to 11.2p net.

DIXONS GROUP: Full-year figures on Wednesday are likely to indicate a loss of sales momentum. But brokers have urged clients not to be too harsh on the electrical retailer and point out that the comparative figures included the launch of

the Sony Playstation, the summer of Euro 96 and the Olympics, as well as strong growth in sales of personal computers. Such influences boosted like-for-like sales 12 per cent. This time round the group achieved an increase of 8 per cent in the first six months, a performance that is likely to be repeated in the second six months.

Brokers have pencilled in pre-tax profits of between £185 million and £200 million compared with £139.2 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up about a third at 34.4p.

Margins will have remained under pressure and it will be too early to assess the impact of higher-rate insurance premium tax on current sales with only two months under its belt.

The payout is likely to grow about 17 per cent from 8.75p to 10.3p net.

MARSTON THOMPSON: The Pedigree bitter group has a lot of lost ground to make up before it begins to impress the market and tomorrow's full-year figures are unlikely to make their mark.

Pre-tax profits should be up by about 8 per cent from £27.5 million to £29.6 million, with earnings per share growing 6 per cent from 25p to 26.6p.

The figures will include a first-time contribution of £1.3 million from its Picher & Piano chain of bars. Brokers will be more interested in prospects for the business and how it sits with the rest of the group. Marston has already doubled the trading space and a further doubling is envisaged once the required land has been acquired.

The managed pubs division, accounting for 45 per cent of profits, was 12 per cent ahead in the first six months and should have repeated the performance during the second half. An improvement in tenanted pubs is likely to be offset by a decline in their numbers.

The brewing side, which now only accounts for 12 per cent of operating profits, will have benefited from the extra barrelage derived from the Mercury deal. But overall cash sales are expected to have fallen 5 per cent, less than half the national average.

The payout is expected to be increased by 10 per cent from 7.3p to 8p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Bank left to apply brake

Last week's Budget left the responsibility for slowing the economy entirely with the Bank of England and monetary policy. Further interest rate rises are clearly on the way, the only question being how quickly and how far. The Bank of England's monetary policy committee has the chance to kick off a new series of rises when its monthly meeting concludes on Thursday. Inflation hawks are muttering that it may choose to emphasise its concern over consumer spending by raising rates half a point to 7 per cent. The general consensus is that the Bank will settle for another quarter point this month and review the situation in August.

Figures for June are released just before the meeting tomorrow and are expected to show inflation remaining relatively subdued although the recent interest rate rises will feed into the headline figures. MMS International, the economic consultancy, predicts that headline inflation will tick up to 2.7 per cent from 2.6 per cent in May after mortgage cost rises, while underlying inflation will rise from 2.5 to 2.6 per cent.

Industrial production figures today are expected to show the pound hurting the manufacturing sector. MMS forecasts no monthly rise in manufacturing output, and the annual rate down from 2.3 to 2.2 per cent. Overall industrial production is expected to show a fall to an annual rate of 0.6 per cent from 2.2 per cent last month.

In the US, producer prices figures are expected to show there are few inflation pressures in the pipeline. MMS expects overall prices to decline by 0.1 per cent compared with 0.3 per cent in May. Consumer credit figures have given some cause for concern in recent months, although the rises have not translated into consistent sales growth. Tomorrow's May figures are predicted to show credit growth slowing to \$6 billion from \$7.6 billion in April.

German employment data, due out tomorrow, are expected to show record unemployment levels increasing again. MMS forecasts a 20,000 rise against 56,000 the previous month. With the German economy still struggling out of recession, the Bundesbank Council is not expected to alter rates at its Thursday meeting.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Television Corp, Wesco, Lonsdale, Alfred McAlpine, Aegis, Wellington Hlids; Sell United News & Media, Island. The Sunday Times: Buy Limeslight, Eurotunnel, Barri-can Healthcare, Philip Harris; Sell Pizza Express, The Mail On Sunday; Buy Southern Elec, Wessex Water, Asda, Action Computers, Persena; Sell Dana Petroleum, The Observer; Buy Schroders, Dixons.

Lloyd's braced for new conflict over ruling body

BY ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S of London is facing a new row between its new and traditional investors over the composition of its ruling body.

The 18-strong Council of Lloyd's has just one member representing corporate capital from pooled funds and insurance companies. These have become increasingly important since they were first permitted to back syndicates in 1994.

The Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM) has attacked a council proposal that the number of corporate capital representatives should be increased to two, at the expense of

one of the berths reserved for individual "names" who do not work in the market.

In its latest newsletter, ALM said the proposal is based on an out-of-date report on voting rights that does not take into account the recent integration of capital providers and syndicate managers, which it claims has already led to conflicts of interest.

The ALM also complained of the lack of consultation. If there has to be a new corporate capital member on the council in 1998, it would prefer a cut in the number of council-

lers representing members working in the market.

Corporate capital already provides 44 per cent of Lloyd's underwriting capacity, and that figure is set to increase. Hyundai, a conglomerate best known in the UK for its cars, will today announce that it is to become the first Korean company to set up a fund to invest in Lloyd's. It will begin underwriting in 1998, subject to approval, with the aim of setting up its own syndicate.

Last week's nomination of Max Taylor, a broker, as the new chairman of Lloyd's focused attention on the uneasy relationship between old and new factions on the ruling council. The decision angered some corporate capital providers who were backing Jonathan Agnew, the chairman of the largest pooled fund.

Names with unlimited liability are concerned that they are being given too little for their syndicate participation rights when they leave or convert to limited liability status. The ALM is advising names to be suspicious of any offers from managing agents of less than 40p per pound of capacity.

Safeway extends scanners

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SAFEGWAY, the supermarkets group, will today begin trials of a new "intelligent" handheld price scanner, which will greet customers as they begin to shop, tell them how many points they have left on their loyalty cards and transmit personalised marketing messages.

Safeway launched its Handiscan scanners last year and they are now used in 130 stores. Customers carry them around the stores, scanning the price of each item as they put it into their trolleys, so that they already have a total bill ready to pay when they reach the checkout desk.

The new scanners, which will make use of personalised information on each shopper, will be tested at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, from today and will go to another 12 Safeway stores across England and Scotland this month. By the end of this year they should be found in 50 stores.

Safeway insists that, despite the obvious risks, random checks show that few customers put items in their trolley without scanning the price.

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ARTS

Richard Cork looks
at the Seurat exhibition
at the National Gallery.

FEATURE

The Last Party.
Continuing extracts
from Adele Mailer's
new book.

IN TOMORROW'S
TIMES

CRICKET

A look back at
the third Test match
between Australia
and England.

GRAND
PRIX

The continuing
build up to the
British Grand Prix.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

They also think that Tecs have little role as local providers of business services, to companies, with the Government's Business Links, local Chambers of Commerce and trade associations already competing in the field.

BY FRASER NELSON

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, joined Ed Wallis, the PowerGen chairman, to open the Connaught Quay power station in North Wales, which is capable of supplying electricity for half of all Welsh homes and factories.

BY JON ASHWORTH

Rosewood owns two hotels, The Mansion on Turtle Creek and the Hotel Crescent Court, both in Dallas, and manages the rest under contract. The Lanesborough is owned by an Abu Dhabi consortium.

1987 High	Low	Mid (Mid)	Price	Wtd +/-	%	P/E	
138	100	11.00	AIJ Spirex	117 1/2	+ 5	5.8	10.0
139	131	11.10	AMCI Corp	133 1/2	+ 2	5.8	10.0
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7 July 1997

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TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

THE FOCUS

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

THE TIMES MONDAY JULY 7 1997

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To raise or not to raise? That could have been the question. Not any more. It is now simply "By how much?" This Wednesday the focus shifts to interest rates, with the meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Bank of England. Do not envy their task. Gordon Brown's Budget leaves the Bank in the position of Britain in 1940 after the fall of France.

The Chancellor said all the right things: "Britain cannot afford a recurrence of the all too familiar pattern of previous recoveries... I will not ignore the warning signs and I will not repeat past mistakes... My goal is therefore to ease inflationary pressures without damage to industrial and exporting prospects... In this way, we can moderate the upward pressure on interest rates and on the exchange rate."

It was as though he had taken his cue from this column last week. The trouble is that he was

Brown hands task to the axe-wielders

all talk and no action. By implication, he was saying "over to you, Eddies". Furthermore, having yielded to the arguments for not offending the voters this year, it is unlikely that Mr Brown will go in for a sharp tightening in his next Budget, which is not due until the spring.

The result of Mr Brown's failure to hit consumers hard enough will not be a sharp rise in inflation. Consumers and businesses are still cautious, and competition is intense. Meanwhile, the strong pound is keeping costs and prices down. Accordingly, there is a good chance that inflation will fall later this year and into next. Moreover, this happy state might even be able to continue, in spite of strong economic growth. After all, this is precisely the US experience —

dire warnings about inflation that repeatedly fail to be borne out. However, even if this does indeed prove to be the case, it is a risk that the MPC cannot afford to take. In view of Britain's history and its own need to establish credibility, the MPC will feel that it has to err on the side of caution. So the consequences of Mr Brown's timidity will be seen in the level of interest rates and the pound.

How high will interest rates go? It seems likely that the MPC will raise rates on Thursday by at least a quarter point. Thereafter, there would be a good case for waiting and seeing. However, it now seems likely that rates will exceed 7 per cent at the end of the year.

To listen to some of the Chancellor's advisers, you would think that whereas tax rises would have



ROGER BOOTLE

been a crude and ineffective weapon for restraining consumer spending, interest rate rises are a finely tuned instrument. Nothing could be further from the truth. The MPC is wielding not a scalpel but an axe.

In the summer of 1988 Chancellor Lawson gingerly raised inter-

est rates in small steps, seeking a soft landing for the economy and stability for the pound. There was, however, little immediate effect in restraining inflationary pressures. So rates were raised in big jumps. It was only when they had reached 15 per cent nearly 18 months later that the process stopped. The result, as many readers will recall with acute pain, was overkill — a devastating recession. Trying to control an unstable economy by manipulating interest rates is a like trying to drag a brick across a table with a piece of elastic either the brick stays where it is, or it flies across the table and hits you in the face.

Of course, it can be argued that if sterling stays at this level, let alone moves higher, it will have a major restraining influence on the MPC. But again, can it take the

risk? The problem is that the currency markets and the spending patterns of consumers adjust at completely different speeds. It may take more than a year for consumer spending to react properly to a change in the interest rate environment, but the currency markets adjust instantaneously. It is quite possible that sterling will already be on the way down again even while consumer spending is still surging ahead. After all, the Lawson boom began with a strong pound, but in its later stages the pound was weak.

How high will sterling go? Not long ago it seemed incredible to suggest that the pound would be back within its old ERM bands. Now it is not only there, but hovering near its central rate. Over the years, I have learnt that when it comes to exchange rates,

it pays to think the unthinkable. After Chancellor Lawson was forced to abandon his attempt to cap the pound at DM3 in 1988, it surged towards DM3.30. Of course, this rate would be unsustainable if it occurred now, just as it was then, but this will not necessarily stop it happening.

So the danger is overkill again. Inflation is likely to end up even lower, and real interest rates therefore much higher. Meanwhile, all those businesses selling abroad or competing with imports at home will have been through yet another sterling surge, damaging investment and employment.

For his first Budget, Mr Brown commissioned a new red box from apprentices at Rosyth, as a symbol of the Government's commitment to employment in Britain, particularly among the young. If this gesture had been market-tested, the work should probably have gone to China. The way the pound is going, the next box could be made more cheaply in Germany.

Kohl expected to give Eurofighter final approval

By Oliver August

THE £45 billion Eurofighter military aircraft programme, which will create 10,000 jobs in Britain, is expected to get its final go-ahead from the German Government this week.

Chancellor Kohl's cabinet will meet on Friday to discuss next year's budget, and senior figures in the British Government and in the UK aerospace industry have been told that the Eurofighter is one of the main spending commitments to be approved.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, said last Friday that the financing for the Euro-

fighter aircraft was secure. He said: "The Eurofighter is contained in the budget for 1998 and in the mid-term financial planning."

But German opposition politicians have rejected the programme as being too expensive. UK aerospace companies fear that if Germany's decision is delayed any further then opposition parties will make the Eurofighter an issue in next year's parliamentary elections.

The Eurofighter is expected to create 18,000 German jobs. Herr Waigel has held week-

end talks with Manfred Bischoff, chief executive of Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), to claw back DM1 billion in prefinancing granted to Dasa for its Airbus civilian aircraft operations. In return Herr Waigel will approve the DM23 billion order for 180 Eurofighter aircraft.

Herr Bischoff is sure that Bonn will make a firm commitment to the programme. He said: "I can't imagine that Germany can take any other decision, bearing in mind the state of the technical development and level of European involvement."

The main UK Eurofighter contractor is British Aerospace. Most other leading aerospace companies in the UK will act as suppliers and subcontractors. The British Government gave its approval for the purchase of 232 aircraft last September. Labour has excluded the Eurofighter from its defence review.

The number of jobs created through Eurofighter production could increase further if the aircraft proves to be an export success. Countries in Scandinavia, Asia and the Middle East have expressed interest.

Approval for the aircraft is of vital importance to the European aerospace industry. The Eurofighter is one of a number of joint projects around which the industry will consolidate. The aircraft could become the linchpin of a single European defence group, similar to Airbus, which unites Europe's civil aircraft makers.

Apathetic Britons lose out financially

By Morag Preston

FAULTURE to check bills, statements and loose change is costing Britons £4 billion a year.

A Direct Line survey of 1,000 adults found that there is widespread apathy about handling mundane financial matters that could have an immediate benefit.

Around 48 per cent of those interviewed do not check their change, and 44 per cent fail to count money from cash machines. Only 55 per cent check bills and receipts, while 57 per cent regularly check bank and credit card statements.

A little more than half of

those surveyed were confident that they are good with money, down from 61 per cent in 1989.

By far the worst "rip-off" cited by those questioned was the prices charged for refreshments at football matches and pop concerts. Not getting change back from parking metres, telephone boxes and fixed bus fares followed closely behind.

Phone service charges such as directory inquiries, hidden commission on buying insurance and service charges in restaurants were also cited.



Head start: Ian Stewart has secured the services of Alan Shearer for Gremlin's new computer football game

Shearer signs for Gremlin

ALAN SHEARER, the Newcastle United and England striker, has signed a four-year consultancy contract with Gremlin, the computer games company that plans a £45 million main market flotation later this month. Mr Shearer will advise Gremlin on Actua Soccer 2, a game that will incorporate his advice on tactics and name his all-time select XI.

Ian Stewart and his wife Jenny, who run Gremlin, aim to sell about £6 million of shares in the flotation. The company more than doubled profits to £2.8 million last year.

DIY sector 'overdoing it'

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

THE DIY market is oversupplied and still in need of rationalisation, even though this is expected to be its best year since the early Eighties.

According to Verdict, the retail consultancy, the home improvement market was worth £10.9 billion last year and is set to grow further in 1997, buoyed by the housing recovery and building society windfalls.

But in a report published today, it points to a large number of second-rank companies with underperforming

stores which are seeing their sales attacked by the biggest operators.

Store closures have been slower than expected because many of the leases were taken out just ahead of the last recession and still have years to run.

With out-of-town stores, it is difficult to get the leases assigned. Another factor behind the slow rationalisation is that many of the poor-performing chains are owned by large retail groups which can absorb losses that would

drive smaller companies out of business. B&Q, the market leader, is owned by Kingfisher. Do It All is owned by Boots and Homebase is owned by J Sainsbury.

Verdict believes Homebase would have been in a position to challenge the dominance of B&Q but for the drain on resources of converting poorly performing Texas stores into the Homebase format. Do It All has made progress in disposing of unwanted stores, but it fails to attract enough customers into its stores.

MAM ties up Sitex control

Mercury Asset Management will today finalise the purchase of a controlling stake in Sitex, a fast-growing security company, for £20 million.

Sitex specialises in protecting empty properties and has grown at 13 per cent a year for the past four years. Mercury's investment is part of £51 million of financing to aid expansion into France, Germany and The Netherlands.

Tony Rieger, managing director of Sitex, and two fellow directors are taking the opportunity to increase their stakes in the firm. Mercury is replacing Philidrew Ventures, which backed Sitex in a management buyout six years ago.

Nasdaq top

Nasdaq, the New York-based stock exchange, is expected to reveal today that it has increased its lead over the New York Stock Exchange in attracting new business.

Nasdaq is believed to have won 63 new issues in the second quarter of the year, totalling \$1.7 billion in value, compared with NYSE, which welcomed eight new issues valued at around \$750 million.

Barclays vote

Nearly 40,000 Barclays Bank staff start voting today in a ballot that could lead to a series of two or three-day strikes.

The Bifa and Unifi unions are opposing a switch to performance pay, which, they claim, will lead to a pay freeze for more than half of Barclays' staff.

The ballot is due to be completed on July 24.

READER OFFER THE TIMES

Exclusive private view at the Tate Gallery

Today readers of The Times are invited to an exclusive party on Tuesday, July 22, to celebrate the Tate Gallery's 100th birthday.

100

The Tate Gallery will be open from 10.30am to 6pm on Tuesday, July 22, to celebrate the Tate Gallery's 100th birthday.

Guests will be able to see a selection of 101 works of special interest, two of which are from the collection of the artist J.M.W. Turner.

Guests will be able to see a selection of 101 works of special interest, two of which are from the collection of the artist J.M.W. Turner.

Leading American painter J.M.W. Turner. This is the first retrospective of this important artist's work in Britain. It includes more than 50 works from 1840 to the present day. Kelly's paintings (see picture) are based on careful observations of the real world transformed into abstract works of the greatest possible purity of colour, line and form.

Invitations to this unique private view are strictly limited and readers are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Call First Call on 0774 420 9900. Tickets, which cost £16.75 per person, include canapés and two glasses of wine.

CHANGING TIMES

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

NIMMER

(c) A pilferer, a petty thief, a thief. From the archaic verb to *nim* to take. Ultimately from the Greek *nemai* to share out. "Twist right and wrong how many gentle trimmers/ Will neither steal nor filch, but will be plucky Nimmers."

PLURIES

(b) The name given to a third writ of attachment, issued when the first (*capias*) and second (*alias*) prove ineffectual. So called from the Latin phrase *pluries capias*. "Thou mayest take several times", occurring in the first clause. "For all your Demures, Pluries, Sursures, which are all Longwords that's Delays: al the comfort is, in nine years a man may overthrow you."

NUBECULA

(a) A speck or small cloud in the eye, a floater. A cloudy formation in urine. A "little cloud" in Latin, the diminutive of *nubes* a cloud. "The nubecula seems to arise from certain gross particles detained in the pores of the cornea, or swimming in the aqueous humour."

NOYADE

(a) The execution of persons by mass drowning, as practised during the French Revolution by Carrier at Nantes in 1794. John Adams, letter, 1819: "The Mohawks, who were concerned in the noyade of the tea in Boston harbour."

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Prince removed by Hun Sen in Cambodia coup

By TOM FAWCROTT IN PHNOM PENH AND JAMES PRINGLE

THE forces of Hun Sen, one of Cambodia's two Prime Ministers, were last night in control of Phnom Penh, the capital, after an apparent coup ended two days of heavy fighting.

In a radio broadcast, Hun Sen described his rival, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as a "traitor". He was no longer a Co-Prime Minister in the shattered coalition Government and would be replaced, Hun Sen said.

From Paris it was reported that Prince Ranariddh was in France and was staying to "organise resistance" to his removal by Hun Sen. This "illegal and criminal adventure" had put the country in peril, the Prince said in a statement.

Yesterday's fighting ceased after the surrender of Prince Ranariddh's forces and a virtual blackout descended on the capital. Phone lines were cut, the airport was closed and roads into the city were sealed.

But the system of government under which two Prime Ministers have ruled Cambodia jointly appeared dead and the seeds had been sown of a new civil war. Outbreaks of fighting were reported from five provinces.

On Saturday, troops and tanks loyal to Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister and former Communist Party

Foreigners flee fighting

ABOUT 60 expatriates, led by Colonel David Mead, the Australian defence attaché, fled the Cambodia fighting yesterday and crossed into eastern Thailand. He said by telephone that they were mostly non-government organisation workers, including some Britons. (Reuters)

leader, surrounded the headquarters of Prince Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party, and the houses of high-ranking officials.

Prince Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister, had earlier left on a private visit to Paris, despite warnings that Hun Sen, with whom he has been engaged in a power struggle, was plotting military action.

In the subsequent fighting, at least nine people were killed, including one Japanese citizen, and more than 50 seriously wounded, hospital officials said.

The fighting triggered an exodus by thousands of people trying to flee the city on foot, bicycle or motorcycle. Hundreds more were trying to

cross the Tonle Sap river by ferry.

Phnom Penh residents watched two columns of smoke billowing against the city skyline after shells hit a petrol station and a textile factory. Many foreign residents checked into a five-star hotel where Western embassies co-ordinated assistance and information.

Late yesterday, Prince Ranariddh's forces still held ground to the west of the city and their Tang Krassung military base near the airport.

Hun Sen's party came second to FUNCINPEC in United Nations-sponsored elections in 1993. The rivals formed a coalition but their differences have intensified recently after the apparent break-up of the Khmer Rouge and the reported arrest, by more moderate elements of the faction, of Pol Pot, its leader.

Prince Ranariddh has been seeking to deal with these elements, headed by Khieu Samphan, to whom he was previously allied, and win them over to his side of the coalition.

In his radio broadcast, Hun Sen urged FUNCINPEC dissidents to fill the Prince's post of First Prime Minister. "The Government is ready to choose a new First Prime Minister," he said.



Residents flee the Phnom Penh fighting as smoke billows from burning fuel

Protests against anti-Islam artist spread to Iran

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TATIANA SUSSKIN, 25, an art school dropout who emigrated from Russia six years ago, has succeeded single-handedly in convulsing the Islamic world and uniting it in fury against Israel in a fashion not seen since the 1982 Lebanon War.

Yesterday protests prompted by her crudely drawn poster depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a bloated pig stamping on the Koran spread to the streets of Tehran, where 10,000 Iranians gathered in front of a UN office chanting "Death to Israel".

Demonstrators carried banners condemning "Israel's suicide against Islam" and the holy Prophet Muhammad" and calling for the destruction of the 49-year-old Jewish state. Earlier, similar mass protests were staged in places as far apart as Bangladesh and Nazareth, the biblical town in Galilee where Israeli Arab protesters attacked vehicles and stoned the police.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, protesters against the caricature burnt an effigy of a black-hatted ultra-Orthodox Jew. In Hebron, where Ms Susskin fanned the flames of religious fanaticism by sticking 20 of the posters on Arab shopfronts, a week of fierce rioting left 150 Palestinians wounded. Yesterday copies of the Koran were found torn and smeared with paint in a Hebron school.

Israeli police investigators have put together a profile of the young extremist who believes that a holy war in the region is imminent and who remains unrepentant for her action, although orders for her assassination have come from leading Islamic clerics. She is in an Israeli jail awaiting trial on charges — including inciting hatred and stoning an Arab car — that could put her behind bars for 24 years.

The Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*, in tracing Ms Susskin's past, said that she appeared to be heavily influenced by her short, dark, bearded boyfriend, Yehuda Shomron — also an immigrant from the former Soviet Union — who is an activist in the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement.

Last month the couple went

to the compound of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, the third holiest Muslim shrine after Mecca and Medina, also the site of the former Jewish Temple. Near offices of the Muslim clergy, Ms Susskin pulled off a shirt to reveal a Kach T-shirt and Mr Shomron sat on the ground intoning a Jewish prayer. Israeli police just managed to extract the pair from an angry Palestinian mob.

In a bail hearing, Ms Susskin, who has a liver disorder, told a judge she had no job and no family in Israel. After her arrival here from Russia, she studied intermittently for four years at the Bezalel art school, where she was known as a problematic student who eventually left without a degree.

For the Hebron mission, she purchased an Arab-English dictionary in a Jerusalem bookshop. Ms Susskin then traced the Arabic letters for "Muhammad" and "Koran" onto the now notorious drawing of the Prophet depicted as a pig wearing a Yassir Arafat-style Arab keffiyeh and stamping on the book with one trainer, while using a pen in the other to write it.

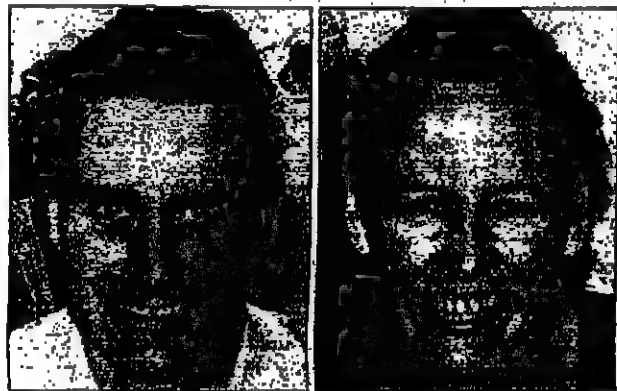
Israel's President, its Prime Minister and Chief Rabbi have all issued profuse apologies to the Muslims.



Susskin is escorted into court in Jerusalem

Chechens step up search for two kidnapped Britons

By RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL HORNELL



Jon James and Camilla Carr work for Quaker charity

THE Chechen authorities yesterday stepped up efforts to find two kidnapped British aid workers amid claims of "criminal negligence" over the failure of the charity for which they work to abide by security arrangements.

Police in the breakaway republic said that they had formed a special squad to hunt for Camilla Carr and Jon James, both in their thirties, who had recently arrived in Grozny to work for the little-known Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development.

After their abduction on Thursday

night by gunmen, the Chechen separatist Government announced that three people had been arrested: two bodyguards who worked for the charity and a local aid worker. Sympathy for the plight of the Britons, who are among about 20 kidnap victims in Chechnya, was tempered with criticism that they had gone to the Chechen capital without informing either the British, Russian or local authorities.

The couple worked for a Quaker body involved in caring for traumatised children, which sources said did not participate in normal shared security arrangements. A spokesman for Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) said in London: "We have not come

across them on the ground. They are a small organisation which is not working in the network of agencies out there."

Since the war broke out in Chechnya two and a half years ago, the Foreign Office has issued repeated travel advice warning Britons not to visit the breakaway province. Russians and Chechens have issued similar warnings since a spate of kidnappings, including foreigners, who have only been released after the payment of ransoms.

"This whole story is rather surprising," said Ivan Rybkin, the Russian National Security Adviser, and co-ordinator on Chechnya. "We had never heard of the organisation they were supposed to be working for."

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Senators braced for hearings fight on Clinton funds

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AFTER months of backstage squabbling, televised Senate hearings begin tomorrow to try to unearth the truth about the American campaign fundraising scandal.

Many questions need to be answered, some relating to national security, about the millions that flowed into President Clinton's re-election campaign and what favours, if any, they bought. Already the Democrats have returned more than \$3 million (£1.8 million) in donations, saying they were from foreign sources and therefore illegal.

There is enough intrigue for a John Le Carré novel: allegations of laundered payments from China, Asian tycoons ushered into White House coffee mornings, Buddhist nuns illegally raising funds at a California temple and well-heeled American couples enjoying overnight stays in the Lincoln Bedroom or trips on Air Force One in exchange for \$100,000 or more.

Mr Clinton's legacy could be stained by the outcome, and the White House ambitions of Al Gore, his Vice-President, could suffer a severe setback. The legality of fundraising by both of them from the White House has been questioned.

The hearings could bolster the presidential hopes in 2000 of their chairman, Fred Thompson, Republican senator and occasional Hollywood character actor in such films as *In the Line of Fire* and *The Hunt for Red October*.

Or the whole exercise could turn into a yawn. Some key players are refusing to testify. Among them are John Huang and Charlie Trie, both naturalised Americans from China. Mr Huang was a fundraiser at the heart of the scandal with links to the CIA, Asian financial conglomerates and the Chinese Embassy in Washington. Many believe he will invoke the Fifth Amendment to avoid incriminating himself under oath.

Mr Trie, an acquaintance of Mr Clinton from Arkansas days, was another energetic fundraiser who took the head of a Chinese arms company implicated in smuggling weapons into the United States to meet the President at the White House. Mr Trie is now ensconced in Shanghai, refusing to comment.

Without this pair and other shy witnesses, the hearings may lack dramatic revelations. Worse, in the fog of recriminations between Republicans and Democrats the opportunity may be lost to close the loopholes through which "soft money" pours into party coffers, evading the limit of \$1,000 in donations to individual candidates.

Mr Thompson is determined to keep the narrative on track. He disclosed yesterday that he had asked Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, for help in asking China for information. Beijing strongly denies making any campaign payments.

White House aides and their Democratic allies at the hearings, led by Senator John Glenn, the former astronaut, are trying to derail Mr Thompson's efforts. They have raised the spectre of the Republicans having to answer for donations from Hong Kong to one of their think-tanks. Mr Clinton has denied that government decisions were ever directly influenced by the size of contributions.

A separate investigation is under way by the Justice Department into the Chinese Government's alleged channelling of money to the Democrats and potential acts of economic espionage by Mr Huang when he worked for the Commerce Department. This parallel inquiry has frustrated Mr Thompson who wants immunity for witnesses at his hearings but has run into objections from the Justice Department.



Hollister, California, plays host for the rally celebrating the 50th anniversary of the "invasion" that inspired the rise of biker culture.

Town welcomes new invasion of wild ones

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Marlon Brando in a hell-raising image from *The Wild One*

TENS of thousands of motorcyclists rumbled into a California cow town at the weekend to celebrate the gathering there half a century ago that gave birth to biker culture.

In 1947 a Los Angeles motorcycle gang, the Boozefighters, led by "Win" Willie Finkner, besieged Hollister, population 4,500, for the Independence Day holiday. About 3,000 beer-swilling bikers, many recently demobbed after the Second World War, raced down the main commercial strip, rode into bars and even plotted to rescue a friend from the local jail.

The so-called "invasion" of Hollister spawned biker culture and sent shockwaves through Middle America. *Life* magazine published a now legendary photograph — one witness said it was staged — of a drunken gang member slumped on his gleaming Harley-Davidson.

The invasion inspired the 1954 film *The Wild One*, with Marlon Brando and Lee Remick, as well as the Shangri-Las' 1965 hit, *Leader of the Pack*.

The throng of motorcyclists that took over Hollister at the weekend seemed downright respectable. Many were doctors or lawyers, so-called "weekend bikers" riding \$30,000 machines. "Today you have doctors and housewives and farmers," said

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, an avid biker. "If anything, motorcycles have become an escape from high-stress lifestyles."

Hollister, which now has a population of 25,000, closed four blocks of its main street and the motorcyclists, estimated to number more than 50,000, just cruised up and down, cranking their throttles. Townspeople seemed enthusiastic. Saloon owners hired extra barmen, shops displayed signs proclaiming themselves "biker friendly" and a local chiropractor advertised "biker specials". The cinema played *The Wild One* over and over again for those who just had to see it one more time.

One biker was arrested for possible drunken driving when he swerved onto the pavement and injured four bystanders. But there were only nine other arrests, seven for drunkenness and two for prostitution.

"Win" Willie, the anti-hero of the 1947 invasion, was unable to attend: he died of heart disease two weeks before the anniversary. But many other old-timers were among the throng. Danny "Little Devil" Fox, 73, took part in the original invasion as a member of the Galloping Goose gang. Asked to compare the two events, he said: "The difference is that since then the bikes got faster and the parties got slower."

Mexican rulers face defeat

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MEXICO CITY

MILLIONS voted in Mexico's first free multiparty elections yesterday, arguably the most historic development in the country since the revolution, which started in 1910.

Although the results of the elections will not be known until late today, there can be little doubt that Mexicans have begun to put behind them a 66-year system marked by the domination of the State and government by one party. Governed for decades by the monolithic Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Mexico

is on the brink of securing a genuine plural democracy.

Voting took place for the lower house of Congress, a quarter of the Senate, six state governorships, and the post of Mayor of Mexico City. The turnout was healthy, and President Zedillo, who belongs to the embattled PRI, urged the country's citizens to vote "with their conscience".

The exhortation was unnecessary. Mexicans are aware that they are making history. According to Gilberto Meza, editor of *Media Comunicación* magazine, the country will never again be the same after these elections.

"Mexico is taking an irreversible psychological step away from its murky political past," Cain prevailed across the country as voters queued up. Televised pictures of Señor Zedillo, hobbling on crutches after an operation on his right ankle, served as an eloquent metaphor for the decline in his party's fortunes.

Every single reputable pre-election poll has predicted that the PRI will lose its majority in Congress. The victor in Mexico's City's first mayoral poll is almost certain to be Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, son of Lázaro Cárdenas, the most popular President Mexico has had.

Franco-US bickering sours 'historic' Madrid summit

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



CONFLICTS of interest within Nato, particularly between France and the United States, have soured the atmosphere for what was supposed to be an all-embracing "historic" summit in Madrid tomorrow.

The meeting will still be hailed as a success and the main topic on its agenda — Nato's expansion eastwards — will be heralded as one of the most significant developments since the foundation of the alliance in 1949. However, the items left off the list which were on it just a few months ago — France's reintegration into Nato's military structure and a new streamlined command — are still a long way from being resolved.

The difficulties over changing the command structure involve territorial disputes between Spain and Portugal, and between Greece and Turkey, as well as the row between France and the United States over who should run the southern European headquarters in Naples.

However, France has given the impression of throwing down the gauntlet on a number of key issues which has provoked a standoff between Paris and Washington, not least over the size of the expansion programme, with France demanding that Romania and Slovenia be included, as well as Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. William Cohen, the new American Defence Secretary, has adopted a tough approach with the French which has added to the strained relations, according to diplomatic sources.

The result is that a significant amount of bargaining between the Nato leaders will still be needed tomorrow to ensure that the summit concludes with an agreed communiqué on how the alliance enlarges over the next five years and beyond.

Meanwhile, the question of France rejoining the military structure that it left in the 1960s has been postponed for an indeterminate period.

France announced last week that reintegration would not be possible after all, largely

because President Chirac had wanted to be rewarded for putting Paris back into the military structure with the promise of a European taking over the southern command from the Americans. With the US Sixth Fleet operating in the Mediterranean from Naples, the Americans said this was out of the question and have refused to budge. Despite the setbacks over Nato reforms, there have been a number of significant developments which will be highlighted during the summit. Considerable progress has been made in developing a European security and defence identity within the alliance — with the full approval of the French.

Alliance sources said that Nato was now engaged in defence planning on behalf of the Western European Union (WEU), the organisation of ten countries, all members of Nato, which will take on the job of running peacekeeping or humanitarian operations when the Americans are not involved. The WEU will be

able to use Nato assets, including American strategic aircraft if required.

Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, the British Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, has also now taken on the role of commander of any future operational WEU force. When he retires, the job could become a rota appointment, giving the French the chance to command a WEU force, but only once they have reintegrated into Nato's military structure. This is viewed as one of the biggest incentives for France to return to the fold.

Leading article, page 27

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As darkness falls many workers clock in, but one doctor proposes that night work affects health adversely and that a treatment can be developed

All light on the night

Bright lights could help nightshift workers to overcome tiredness, says Anjana Ahuja

Our cities and towns are far from silent at night. As most of us are reaching for our coffee, a battalion of workers is just stirring into action. It is estimated that up to a fifth of the working population carries out its duties at night — stacking shelves, keeping assembly lines going, running hospitals and maintaining power stations.

There is one problem: they have the same biological clock as day workers. Night workers often have trouble sleeping through the day, and sometimes find it hard to stay awake on their shift, which means mistakes are more likely to happen. Dr Lawrence Smith, a psychologist at Leeds University, discovered that among people who carry out the same job, night workers suffered 20 per cent more injuries than day workers.

Now he is setting up a laboratory of light to test the theory that light can be used to fool the human body clock. He has been given £104,000 from the nuclear industry to carry out a detailed investigation. "There are many negative aspects to working at night," Dr Smith says. "People become very sleepy, they get irritable, and don't perform very well. They sleep badly during the day, and become moody with their families. We rely on these people for our security, for our power, for our

newspapers, yet little research has been conducted into their wellbeing."

The biological clock resides in the hypothalamus, a cherry-sized part of the brain, located behind the eyes, that regulates physiological processes, such as body temperature and blood pressure over a 24-hour cycle. These patterns are called circadian or diurnal rhythms. The cycles lead to peaks and troughs in mental and physical alertness — the highest peak occurs at dawn, but vigilance levels plummet during the early hours.

One of Dr Smith's aims will be to pinpoint "zones of vulnerability" during the 24-hour cycle for shift workers.

However, the body clock appears to be influenced by light, because one of the chemicals at its disposal is sensitive to light. Melatonin, a hormone, is produced by the brain's pineal gland. Its release is thought to be blocked by light entering the eye, consequently the pineal gland is most productive at night. The resultant flow of melatonin through the body induces sleepiness. Melatonin pills appear to be effective against jet lag, although many doctors express caution over long-term use.

It follows that preventing

the hormone from being produced in the first place should promote alertness. Dr Smith plans to use bright light to keep workers awake. In his light lab he will expose volunteers to light intensities of 1,500 to 2,500 lux, which is a fraction of the light intensity on an overcast summer's day, but still at least three times brighter than office lighting. "As well as suppressing melatonin, light has a neurophysiological impact," Dr Smith says. "People become more alert and feel much better, even though they may not initially like the idea of working in bright light."

He plans to conduct three studies. Each will involve about 20 volunteers — ideally unemployed workers who have some experience of shift working — doing simulated work tasks, such as entering data on a computer, or assembling a product. In the first study, they will be exposed to a constant level of light during the entire shift.

In the second study, the light will be switched on at certain times, when the body clock is at its lowest ebb. In the third, the volunteers will be able to control their own exposure to light, by walking into a brightly lit room.

Dr Smith says: "The studies will be as natural as possible, so we will obviously be carrying them out at night. The volunteers will be able to chat to each other and eat during a break, just as normal workers would." He adds that previous studies show that workers in control of light exposure gain the most benefit, perhaps because controlling one's environment enhances feelings of wellbeing.

There is also evidence that exposing night workers to bright light during their night shift leads to longer and better quality sleep during the day. Dr Smith says: "The light nudges the body clock, so that the sleepiness rhythm is delayed into the day."

Secrets of the ancient salamanders

A MILE beneath the sea near Slovenia, in total darkness and near-freezing temperatures, live some of the strangest animals on Earth. *Proteus anguinus*, which inhabits a large underwater limestone cave network, has no eyes or ears, and, because of the lack of light, has a whitish-pink skin.

Proteus is thought to be descended from salamanders that became trapped as the cave system developed. Its eyes atrophied and its lungs withered, to be replaced by three breathing systems, allowing it to adapt to water or land. It senses its surroundings by using smell and touch.

This extraordinary creature can exist without food for 12 years, feeding instead on its fat reserves, and can live for up to 120 years.

A television documentary made by Slovenian marine biologists and divers shows the animal in its natural environment. Scientists have several specimens in captivity. But they are accustomed to total darkness — even faint light gives them sunburn, so they are returned to the wild after a short time.

The documentary reveals that pollution seeping from the land may be causing deaths among the creatures, prompting fears that *proteus*, unique to Slovenia, may become extinct. There are only 20,000 of them, and the females do not produce many offspring.

Biologists still hope that the creatures, which were once mistaken for baby dragons when flash floods washed them onto land, can be saved.

ANJANA AHUJA
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Ornamental ivory

A STUDY of Indian elephants has provided further corroboration of a theory first put forward in the early Eighties by the evolutionary biologist Professor William Hamilton of Oxford University. The males of many species carry features such as feathers or tusks which appear designed to impress females. Observation shows that the males with the best displays do tend to attract mates more readily. But this would only make sense if the outward signs that so impress the females really do provide good evidence of inner health.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
 Nigel Hawkes

The professor devised a simple explanation. He proposed that if males carry genes that make them more resistant to parasites, they would tend to be in better health and thus be more able to afford the metabolic cost of growing physical adornments. Studies of invertebrates, reptiles, fish and birds have lent support to the hypothesis. Now elephants provide the first evidence that it also applies to mammals.

Dr Raman Sukumar and Dr Milind Warde of the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore spent three years studying elephants in the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in southern India. They identified 38 different elephants, and collected dung samples from each of them. They then tested the droppings for intestinal parasites, finding plenty. Some contained as many as 20 million parasite eggs, not enough to be life-threatening, Dr Sukumar told *Science*, but enough perhaps to weaken the elephants in

difficult times when food was short, or they were stressed in some other way.

They also developed a standard growth curve for tusks, by studying animals in the field and in museums, and working out how long the tusks are likely to be at any age. Finally they examined the extent to which any individual elephant's tusks exceeded the norm, and compared that with the parasite load as measured in that individual's droppings. They found, as Dr Hamilton would have predicted, that the bigger the tusks, the fewer the parasites.

Other explanations are possible, and Dr Sukumar says that his results, published in the Indian journal *Current Science*, are "compatible with, but not necessarily a substantial proof of" the thesis. Dr Hamilton says that he hopes the results will help to convince sceptics, though there are a few loose ends. It is not clear yet, for example, that the low levels of parasites in the well-tusked elephants are the result of genetic inheritance.

If they are, they raise a different problem, because poachers are likely to go for the best tusks, those with the finest tusks. If these also are those with the best genes for resisting parasites, then poaching may be weakening the species by removing parasite resistance.

The moral is obvious, according to Dr Hamilton. "Never cull the top bulls; cull old but small-tusked males," he says. "Of course, that is the opposite of what hunters do if they want to make a profit."

The hunt for a square meal root

SEEDS make better food than roots because they store proteins and oils, while roots provide only starch. Now the discovery of a mutant form of a weed called *Arabidopsis thaliana* has raised hopes of producing root plants containing greater nutrition than today's carrots or turnips.

Two teams — from the University of California at Berkeley and the Carnegie Institution plant laboratory in Stanford, California — found the mutation independently. It is reported in *Science*. It produces enormous taproots that are opaque and green, looking like a pickle — the name given to the gene, or genes, responsible.

What happens is that the taproot genes somehow fail to shift from their seed program to their root program, and continue behaving as if they were seeds, so storing large amounts of oil, protein, and starch. Dr Christopher Somerville of Carnegie says his dream is to produce an "oil potato" — a highly productive plant that produces commercially useful oil. The next step will be to identify the gene responsible, and track down its equivalent in food plants.

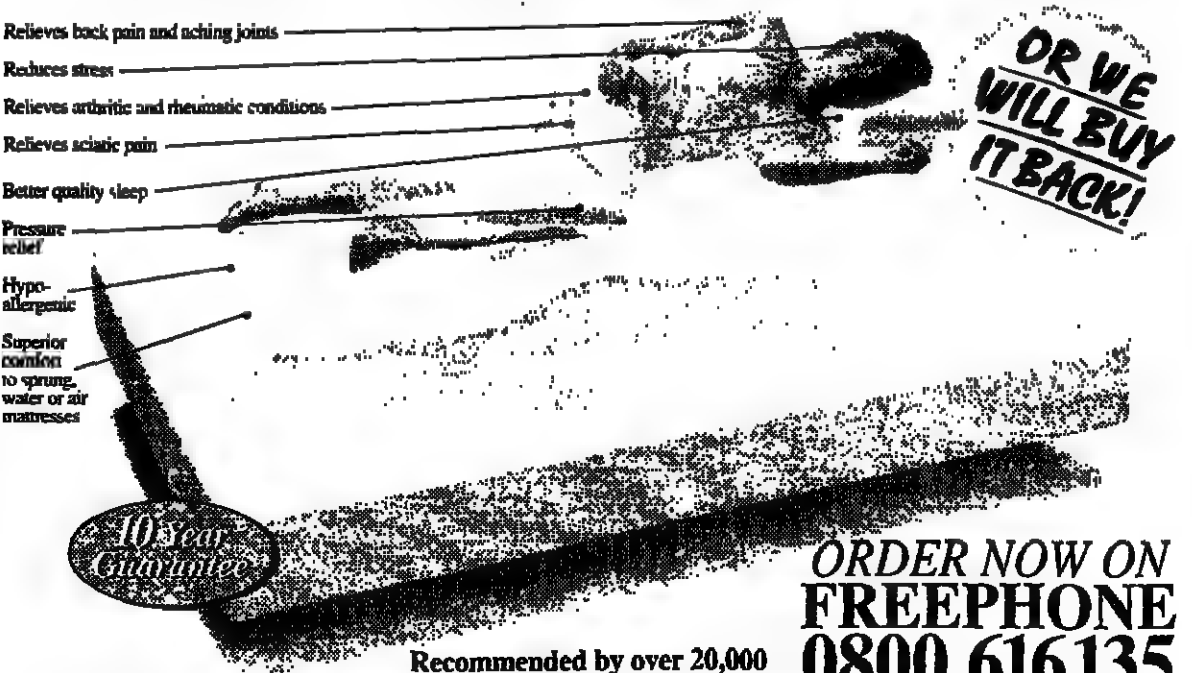
Mystery over vaccines deepens

VACCINES work by educating the body's immune cells to recognise an infective agent, and how to deal with it. But why do they work better when they are mixed with inactive materials, called adjuvants? It has been known since the Thirties that adding aluminium hydroxide to the antigen in a vaccine enhances the number of antibodies it produces. The conventional explanation is that the adjuvant provides a "depot" from which the antigen is released over a period of months.

Wrong, says Dr Stanley Hem of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He has used accelerator mass spectrometry to trace the elimination from the muscle of aluminium hydroxide after it was injected into rabbits. He found that it was present in blood within an hour of injection.

This means, he says in a paper to be published in the journal *Vaccine*, that the adjuvant is being eliminated from the body very quickly. So the aluminium hydroxide cannot be acting as a source from which the antigen is slowly released. How it does function remains a mystery.

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THE LAST PARTY

Day One: Brawls and controversy have been the stuff of life to Norman Mailer. As his latest novel, *The Gospel According to the Son*, scandalises the US, his second wife, Adele, has written her own book exposing the violence and depravity of their ten-year marriage.

He stared through me with a strange smile. He'd taken the first step of his descent into hell



Norman Mailer, New York, 1989. "It didn't matter where the party was, he had to go. Norman's energy was awesome"

The first time I met the boy wonder he was wearing a plaid flannel shirt and dungarees on his slender frame. He looked at me, and his eyes were beautiful, not only in their blue colour, but for their soft, almost melancholy expression. He was good looking with a strong nose, a beautifully shaped sensual mouth and a delicate chin. There was a sensitivity in his face I responded to.

A few months after we'd set up an apartment together, I quit my job making papier-mâché figures for window displays. Norman said there was no need for me to work. So far as I was concerned, there wasn't much to keeping house. I disliked housework anyway and kept it to a minimum. When we started to live together there were two things I had to learn in the kitchen. Norman liked the same lunch every day, the

tuna salad his mother fixed for him since he was a little boy. I had to make it the same way. And scrambled eggs had to be a replica of his mother's. Norman patiently gave me a lesson in making eggs, explaining the degree of doneness was a big factor. Once they were undercooked, and he dumped them on the floor. "Clean it up," he said. I finally got the eggs right, so it never happened again. One day we decided to have

a housewarming, and Norman asked me which celebrity I would like to invite. "Marion Brande, of course," Marion showed up with Rita Moreno. He was obviously shy and sat in a corner with Rita on his lap, neither of them moving the whole time they were there. We loved having parties, and this was the first of many in that place. We got all kinds of invitations, none of which Norman could refuse. It didn't matter where the party

was or who gave it. He had to go. Norman's energy was awesome, and mine almost matched his. But I would have liked a few more evenings at home. My expanding social circle and role as the mistress of a literary star was exciting, but I didn't realise how much I was beginning to depend on booze to dull any anxiety or doubt about my own identity. That year we spent the first of many summers in Provincetown. In the Fifties Provincetown was afloat on a spongy marijuana foundation. We could get it anywhere, anytime, and cheap. Norman liked the sleazy parties in the local underworld, the rooms filled with dropouts, boring drunks and potheads. I was bored, but a few drinks would fix that, and I was driven to keep up with him. If I fell back, I was afraid I would lose him. By 1953 we were still in love and very much a couple, sometimes at odds with each other, but nonetheless, it was Norman and Adele to us and to our friends. But I was becoming less clear about who I was. My identity was slowly being absorbed into his. I tried to please him in every way, and it was getting harder the more we were together. I was up against a perfectionist, a relentless critic, especially of people closest to him, with an ego that devoured everything and everybody. He was tougher now, and the bickering between us accelerated.

One night we gave a rather sedate party. At one point I watched Norman drunkenly holding forth about another of his obsessive themes, the psychology of the orgy. The party seemed stiff, not like our usual lively scene, and I was tired of being part of the ring of admirers listening to the guru. I can't think what possessed me to do what I did next. "OK, Norman, you want an orgy with these squares. Well you'll get one," I shouted and took off all my clothes, angrily throwing each piece at him. Any other man would have been furious, but not my Norman. He enjoyed every minute of it, his eyes sparkling with admiration. I felt betrayed and hurt, because I wanted him to be angry. The couple's relationship was to prove highly unconventional, and even at this early stage Norman confessed to taking two women to bed while he was researching a book on Los Angeles. Adele responded by sleeping with a married couple she knew. I was angry and hurting. I needed my revenge, even though I felt inhibited and awkward. I certainly was no seasoned orgiast. I decided to write to Norman, and since he had been so honest with me, it was only fair I should be the same. He wired to say he was coming in from L.A. I had not expected to see him for another week. I was so happy, I couldn't think of anything else but him. I said: "Darling, I'm

glad you're back." The words were hardly out when he spat at me. He was so angry I thought for a moment he was going to hit me. "It's OK for you to do it, but not for me?" I started to cry. "I love you darling," he said, and I let him put his arms around me. He stopped my words with kisses until all thought was gone and there was only desire. The couple made a number of trips to Mexico over the next few years, where their diversions included a live sex show performed by three young Mexican peasants, and taking part in a wife-swapping session with another couple. It seemed the Lattimores' main diversion, besides being wealthy, was having sex with as many people as possible and at the same time. Norman's eyes lit up. His smile was devilish. "C'mon, baby, you know you're interested in them." I was ambivalent about the whole idea. The sex was still so good between us, so why should he want to share me? The next day, he kept pressing, cajoling me until I finally said, "OK, call them and invite them for a drink." All the booze and pot I had went directly from my brain to my body, and there was no retreat. I opened my eyes and saw Norman and Rita in the far corner of the room. For a moment, my bleary eyes met his. He had a funny look on his face. Poor Norman, I thought, but why should I care? He wanted it, so it's his funeral. Then Norman went off, and the three of us went on from there...

A long heavy silence was broken by my sudden claustrophobic panic. "Leave me alone, don't touch me." My rage sent them scurrying into their clothes, slamming the door. The sound of their car faded, leaving me in an unbearable silence. I went upstairs, praying he was there. He was like stone, his back to me. "Get away from me, you slut." He shoved me so violently, I almost fell from the bed. "You disgust me." I couldn't believe he said that, and rage replaced my vulnerability. "I disgust you? You wanted this even more than I did." I mimicked him: "A writer must experience everything." Later that night I was awakened by his kisses. "I couldn't take anyone else making love to you. Don't you understand, I love you." Gradually the pain of that night passed, and soon we were back on the familiar merry-go-round. Although there were moments of tenderness and humour over the following years (which saw the birth of the Mailers' two daughters), their arguments became increasingly violent. By the end of 1954, we'd been living together for three years, and I began to think seriously about marriage. I was pushing 30, and was also beginning to think about having a baby, in spite of the emotional

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حکومت الاصل



Escape to Provincetown: Norman with Adele the poolside



Norman with Adele the poolside. The photograph of Norman's whole life, and with Adele: "When Norman wanted to, he could be considerate. But I never knew when it would turn or in which direction"



CORBIS-BETTMAN / UPI

storms created by our mutual insanity. We did care for each other and even managed to be happy in between fights. I didn't exactly say, 'Norman, about getting married, but I would introduce the subject at every opportunity.' 'You know, I've given you as much of myself as I've ever given any woman,' he said. 'So cheer up, if that means that much to you, you'll have that piece of paper.' It was not exactly my idea of a marriage proposal but I was happy anyway.

When Norman wanted to, he could be considerate, always careful to include me in the conversation. I was proud of my darling when he was at his sober, intelligent, funny best in public. But I never knew when it would turn or in which direction. He didn't always take care of me. There were times when he would take off, leaving me to look out for myself. I began finding names and telephone numbers on the inside of his matchbooks. Young ones, old ones, beautiful ones and plain ones. It wasn't as if we didn't have good sex. He had so many meaningless affairs. Why would he have to prove over and over again that he was attractive to women?

Norman's daughter, Susie,

visited us occasionally. One night when Susie was with us, Norman, who'd been in a foul mood all day, began to pick at me. I answered back, setting off the usual bickering. Without warning, he backhanded me across the face. Up to this point, his abuse had been emotional, but now he was beginning to be more free with his hands.

One summer weekend I asked my mother to baby-sit. After a New York party, Norman and I made our habitually drunk drive home.

Norman had been horrible to me all evening. I handled it in my predictably alcoholic, out-of-control way, and by the time we got home we were really into a shouting match. The fight got vicious with us hitting each other and ended with Norman punching me in the face, giving me a black eye and a bruised mouth. After that I was too frightened to sleep in the same bed with him. I spent the night crying myself to sleep on the livingroom couch. In spite of the constant bickering, I still wanted another baby. Again, I was naive enough to think it would help our marriage. Once we were quarrelling about some-

thing that was inconsequential and without warning, he hit me in the stomach. I was six months pregnant, and still recall the physical hurt and horror I felt. Thank God the baby was all right. As usual, there was no apology.

Happily there were still occasional evenings with just the two of us when Norman would allow a rare good mood to release all his charming qualities. Strangely, Norman's belief in my talents never wavered despite our stormy relationship.

I never came to terms with my drinking during this period of my life with Norman. It never crossed my mind that I was an alcoholic with all the fears, doubts and insecurities that my husband shared. Alcohol became the fuse that set off the million petty explosions between us.

One night Norman had gone to a party without me. I'd seen him wildly drunk before, but this time when he got home there was something evil and menacing that had not been there in the past. He stared through me with a distracted expression, a strange smile flicking across his face. It seemed to me that he'd taken the first step of his descent into hell.

It was March 1960, and I tried to persuade Norman that it was imperative that we get away from New York. For once he agreed with me. We decided to pack up and go to Provincetown. Norman was really beginning to flip out, and I was trying desperately to hang in. Yet again I deluded myself into thinking that a change in geography would have a calming effect on us. Much of the way up, I was brooding about why I was still with this man. With hindsight I can see there was this part of me that never wanted to grow up. I grew up in a culture in

which my role as a woman would be to marry and have children. My prize would love me eternally, take care of me forever, and we would live happily ever after.

Much of my identity was tied up with being Mrs Norman Mailer, and I was frightened to give that up, no matter what the price. I also had become dependent on my lifestyle. I had no money of my own and two small children. Where would I go? What would I do? I was also ashamed at the thought of a divorce. To me, it meant I was a failure.

According to Adele, her husband had his share of fistfights that last Provincetown summer, including one with two policemen which left him needing 15 stitches to close the wound on his head. By September the Mailers were back in New York.

I was becoming more and more depressed. I was living with a man who was living from one emotional crisis to another, on the edge of a

complete breakdown. If we continued to live this life, I thought we would end up in adjoining cells in a mental hospital. Although I didn't know it at the time, the next few months began the final decline of our marriage. Norman seemed, at last, to be spinning out of control. A friend phoned one November night to let me know my pugnacious husband was being arraigned in night court on drunk-and-disorderly charges.

Another night, a drunken Norman came home at 4am. He looked like hell, as if he had slept in his clothes. When he took off his jacket, there were lipstick stains on his open collar. He'd been in Greenwich Village when a good-looking black woman propositioned him, so they went to her place. When they got to her apartment, said Norman, 'she undressed and turns into a he. She was really beautiful. I couldn't believe it. I wanted her anyway.'

My soul was sickened but I was incapable of walking away. As strange as it sounds, I could not imagine my life, even the way it was, without my husband.

Norman was becoming even more frantic and writing very little. He had an obses-

sive need for power and the spotlight. When he announced his crazy scheme to run as a candidate for the mayor of New York City, I wasn't surprised. One afternoon, his younger sister Barbara came to the apartment bringing something to do with the mayoral campaign. Norman adored Barbara and rarely directed any of his hostility at her. But that day they argued in a way I'd never seen before. Suddenly he slammed his fist into her face, knocking off her glasses and breaking them. It was totally unexpected and I was as shocked as she was.

The next day, during some petty squabble, without any warning, he hit me in the stomach with his fist, right in front of the girls. I took the kids and ran out of the apartment. I stayed away until I was sure he must have calmed down.

Barbara and I both felt he should be committed but in the end backed off. Neither of us really wanted to face the enormity of what we were contemplating. Then came that last terrifying drop into madness and near death.

Adapted from *The Last Party*, by Adele Mailer (Blake Publishing, £16.99)

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Mailer at the police station after his arrest

TOMORROW

'Norman charged into the living room like a crazed bull... Then he gored me near my heart and in my back with a dirty three-inch pen-knife.'

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Oh, ye philosophers and critics, who hold with Suetonius that the pen is mightier than the blade, spare a thought for those whose weapon is the humble fist. Disdain not the honest pugilist who fights with Nature's arms as beneath your notice but consider that when he fights his adversary's nob or causes his claret to flow upon the turf, 'making the green one red', he strikes with the spirit and bravery of his forefathers at Crécy and Agincourt and inflicts no hurts one tenth as deep as you with your acid judgments and corroding pens."

William Hazlitt? After a fashion. The fashion of one of our two finest literary mimics, the champion storyteller George MacDonald Fraser. His new novel *Black Ajax* hits the bullseye for its timing in these dicey moments for boxing.

Black Ajax was a freed black American slave who came to England and fought the great Tom Cribb for the championship of England — an almighty scrap

Captivated by the brutality of boxing

which drew in all the fancy and excited all the country. MacDonald Fraser uses real people — Hazlitt, Tom Cribb, Paddington Jones, HRH the Prince of Wales and, of course, Black Ajax (Tom Molineux) himself — to construct a novel of many voices which is soaked in the language and lore of those Regency days.

All novels, though, I think, however deep in the past they may be set, are also contemporary and there can be little doubting MacDonald Fraser's relish not just for boxing — the art and romance of it — but also for what many people today would consider its brutality.

Here is Paddington Jones describing Black Ajax after the fight with Cribb: "I've seen good men spoiled for keeps by less punishment than he'd taken that day. Both his eyes were swollen closed, his nose split in two places, a gash

from his lower lip nigh to his chin, one ear part torn away and the rest of his nob cut and rasped and bloody as raw liver." Bare knuckles then, calloused hard knuckles and as many rounds as it took until one man failed to come up to the Scratch line. More than 30 rounds in the case of Cribb and Molineux and that was by no means a record.

Here now is Hazlitt writing about the first fight he saw at about that time: "Reader have you ever seen a fight? If not, you have a pleasure to come... to see two men smashed to the ground, smeared with gore, stunned, senseless, the breath beaten out of their bodies; and then, before you recover from the shock, to see them rise up with new strength and courage, stand steady to inflict or receive mortal offence and rush upon each other 'like two clouds

MELVYN BRAGG



over the Caspian" — this is the most astonishing thing of all: this is the high and heroic state of man! But that was then, you may say, and all our sensibilities have been refined since. Leaving aside

the fact that the whole character of the 20th-century 'killing' fields questions that comforting assumption, let us go a round with another boxing writer, this time one from our own time.

Norman Mailer in his book *The Fight*, about the rumble in the jungle between George Foreman and Muhammad Ali, begins with as high an accolade as any accorded by Hazlitt or Fraser. Ali, Mailer writes, "is the prince of heaven — so says the silence around his body when he is luminous." He also says: "To the degree that boxing is carnality, meat against meat, Ali was master when it was time to receive, he got the juice out of it." Of a previous Foreman fight he writes: "As Norton started to get down for the second time, Foreman caught him five times as quick in the instance as a lion slashing his prey." And, a

final quote: "A heavyweight champion... is conceivably the most frightening unarmed killer alive. With his hands he could slay fifty men before he became too tired to kill any more. Or is the number closer to one hundred?"

My reliance on quotations is an attempt to put on paper something of the minds of three fine writers spanning 200 years on a subject still often and brilliantly written about but one increasingly victim to a dismissiveness which suggests that we are above everything it represents. Somehow that bloody primal battle is behind and beneath us.

The extracts I have quoted contradict that. More importantly they spur it. Men has never been more inhumane to man than he has before in this Dark Age. Enough of us — and the three writers quoted are men of

proven sensitivity as well as courage — want to see such battles in the ring. We, too, see heroism and courage and perhaps we need to see it.

We also want to see these battles controlled. Tyson should not have gone for the ear. But we want to watch, whether it is the Lions front row ramming into the Springboks so hard that the crunch seems to reach us from South Africa without benefit of television, or boxers crashing their fists into faces which become as distorted as the portraits of Francis Bacon.

Why some of us want it, what it says about us: these are questions worth addressing, especially at the moment when part of our country sees the guts of its life being ripped away from it because another part of the country regards it as brutal. But can we possibly stamp it out or is it better to let it run in a controlled way? After all, those three men — and many others — like the fight because of its aesthetics, because of its test of character, but also because of its brutality.

Who would want to run a museum?

Our national museums and galleries have probably changed more in the past 15 years than in the previous 150. New galleries, new displays, lectures, interactive computers, audio tours, bigger bookshops, better cafés: they are all regarded as essential parts of today's museum "experience", and they have largely been financed with millions of pounds from the private sector.

As with so many other things, Mrs Thatcher changed everything. In 1988 she gave museums responsibility for their buildings, collections and staff, while changing the law so that they could keep their own income, rather than handing it to the Treasury. The national collections gained autonomy and a promise of stable core funding. But

Isabel Carlisle reports on the chill winds of commerce now blowing through the galleries

In return the Tory Government demanded from them accountability as to how public funds were spent, and the application of business principles. It was a cultural revolution. Directors had to acquire new skills overnight. Scholarship was no longer enough. John Ingamells resigned as director of the Wallace Collection in 1992, feeling that his job was constantly being ques-

tioned. "Thatcherism threw Fabian idealism out of the window. There is now an identifiable head-hunter job of director which is not restricted by what you are interested in. The prototype was Roy Strong."

It seems incredible now that Thomas Kendrick, British Museum director in the 1950s, could describe his job as having "practically no responsibilities. Just occasionally signing a letter or two that someone has written for you. Honey-sweet relations with the dear, friendly trustees ... Above all, abundant opportunity to get on with your own work and no need to hide it under the blotting paper when you have callers."

The only thing likely to be hidden under the blotting paper on the desk of the BM's current director, Robert Anderson, is the much-debated Edwards Report, which highlighted the museum's lack of financial expertise, its unwieldy management structure and the pressing need to balance the books either through staff cuts or by introducing entrance charges. "Most of my working day is spent considering the financial situation — finding resources outside the museum and dealing with heavy administration," Anderson says. Today's museum directors, it may be argued, need less scholarship than showmanship — combined with administrative, financial, and marketing skills — plus the social graces to charm money out of private purses.

But do all museum directors face the same problems? Not according to Neil MacGregor, National Gallery director. "The Thatcher changes prompted directors to make statements of mission," he

claims. "Those museums which now have free entry re-articulated their need to be both accountable and creative, and have attracted huge sponsorship. On the other hand, museums which responded to that initiative by giving their audiences what they wanted have had a very rough ride. It is much easier to add an economic dimension to your mission than it is to add a mission dimension to your marketing."

The Victoria and Albert Museum's troubled history illustrates MacGregor's point. The crisis at the V&A in

January 1989, when nine curators were made redundant by Roy Strong's successor, Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, under instruction from her trustees, is widely considered to have had its origins in the Strong administration. In 1983 the South Kensington museums, which had no trustees, were each given a Government-appointed board. "Strong should have been careful to get the right kind of board," says MacGregor. "He failed to educate his trustees about what the V&A was about. Now it is very hard to say what the mission of the V&A is."

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, observes that "a number of philosophical and funding gulfs have opened up in Britain. The national museums talk about how to find time and money to catalogue their collections, while in the regions they talk about how to keep the doors open. In London, attitudes have also polarised between Exhibition Road and Trafalgar Square."

Alan Borg, director of the V&A since October 1995, was himself quickly embroiled in controversy: he decided last autumn to introduce entry charges. "There is a danger in compromise now," he says. "The fall in funding is forcing us to bring more people in by marketing our collections and putting on exhibitions. That is fine, but we should be engaged in other things, like scholarship and acquisitions."

In the first of the annual Franks Lectures at the British Museum, Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, suggested that some museums had lost sight of their main purpose: the care and display of collections. He told his audience that, at a series of dinners hosted by the NACF for museum figures, "there seemed to be little on which our guests could agree. I felt that I was watching a Punch and Judy show, as national and regional museum directors engaged in verbal skirmishing."

The same debate is going on in America. Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, wrote in *The Art Newspaper* that "the museum experience" is now so conspicuous that even the Metropolitan, hardly short on art, has been described in the press as "Club Met" — and museums, because of their amenities, have been equated with suburban malls.

Because a far greater pro-



In a whirl at the Tate: the museum "experience" has altered beyond recognition in the past 15 years, favouring a new breed of showman-director

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Wrong sort of dome

It is only recently that this remarkable mass has been attributed to Biber (1644-1704), the celebrated Bohemian virtuoso violinist who served the Salzburg court as Kapellmeister. Composed probably in 1682, it calls for massive forces spread over more than 50 parts, including four organs. With its polychoral writing on one hand and elaborate coun-

St Paul's is a building for grand statements, and the big climaxes had splendour. But much of the writing is on a chamber scale, and quieter passages were lost. Attempts to recreate Salzburg conditions, with endless fanfares from trumpets, some even in the Whispering Gallery, only added to the blur.

JOHN ALLISON

Sweet sound of seduction

Bonney and her accompanist Helmut Deutsch are taking a group of Goethe heroines on the festival circuit with them this summer. Bonney, with her winsome, warm-breathing soprano, makes a seductive Suleika and a contrastingly poignant Mignon. In her *Kennst du das Land*, not only do the golden oranges, the warm breezes and the rocky mountains come alive, but the yearning of the North for the South is movingly recreated. Bonney's Gretchen is equally distinctive. Her heaviness of heart at the spinning-wheel experience is a thing in a dream, and the climactic kiss is drawn back into the retreat of memory in a beautifully veiled head voice.

From Goethe's women to Clara Schumann's *Lorelei*, a terror-stricken *Erkönig* of a creature compared with the lunar vision of Liszt. Bonney leapt up to this still undersung *tour de force* by way of Clara's seizing of Heine and of two poems by Rückert, including a fervent *Liebst du um Schönheit*.

The Mendelssohns, Felix and Fanny, might have been the obvious pairing after the interval. Instead we had Brahms and Debussy. The chemistry of the latter: *Le Jardin de Baudelaire* didn't quite work. Bonney's generalized ardour in performing these songs tended to lead the ear to focus on the more subtly infected contribution of Helmut Deutsch's piano playing. But Bonney found her own focus for Brahms, exploiting the darker, increasingly rich tones of her soprano for *Wir wandelten* and rising to the elusive play of light, water and sound in the serenading of *Sünderchen*.

HILARY FINCH



Enough to make a bishop kick a hole through a stained-glass window: Diana Ross wows the Dublin faithful

Superstar spice

world's concert halls? The answer, as anyone who has seen her perform on her current British tour will tell you, is that showbusiness is her very lifeblood. Music is not just something she does; it is what she is. Singing love songs to thousands of adoring fans comes as naturally to the honey-toned chanteuse as rain to Wimbledon. Indeed, observing

Within no time at all, Ross and her 11-piece band launched into a medley of some of the Supremes' greatest hits — *Where Did Our Love Go*, *Baby Love*, *Stop In The Name Of Love*, *You Can't Hurry Love* and *You Keep Me Hanging On*. It was a little disappointing to be given only snippets of songs that one had hoped to hear in their complete form. But

The mature crowd, so sedate before the show, was transformed during the two-hour set into a rowdy bunch of starstruck hysterics. Ross, in mingling with her fans — pressing flesh, posing for photos, and sitting on men's knees — gave them their own 15 seconds of fame, and they responded by according their heroine the adoration and adulation which she, more than most pop stars, clearly craves.

Long may it last.

Preserve the sounds of musical genius

A unique archive of historic concert and opera performances is in danger, says **Richard Morrison**

Malheur was the last of the Music Performance Research Centre made its first recording: a Philharmonia concert in the Festival Hall. Two years later, it opened a listening centre at the Barbican Library which has become a Mecca for anybody interested in the huge changes in performance over the past 60 years. There are hundreds of vintage live recordings here that simply can't be heard anywhere else: Toscanini conducting Beethoven Nine at the Queen's Hall; Ferrier singing Mahler; Erich Kunze singing Wagner's *Die Walküre* at Covent Garden; Stравinsky conducting Stравinsky; Boris Christoff singing Boris Godunov; Rubinstein playing the Emperor; the premiere of Britten's *War Requiem* at Coventry Cathedral... the list is virtually the history of 20th-century music.

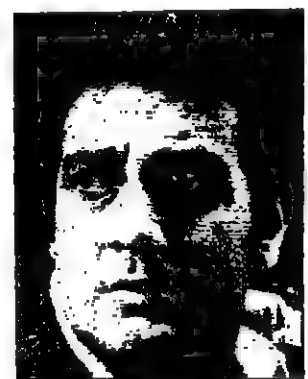
And the archive has also saved some great live performances of the past ten years. Having reviewed Klaus Tennstedt's intensely moving concert of Mahler's Resurrection Symphony in 1989, I later sat under the headphones in the Barbican Library, and found the MPRC recording brought a lump to the throat of all my ears.

MPRC microphones have already captured interpretations by Rattle, Rostropovich, Gergiev, Masur and many other top musicians. And often these are strikingly different—riskier, less worried about absolute precision—than the same artists' interpretations in the recording studio. In centuries to come they will be an invaluable chronicle of the music-making that excited audiences in the ancient 1990s. "In my opinion," Sir Georg Solti says, "the MPRC is the most important single source of our live performance heritage."

Tonight at the Barbican Music Library, the conductor Sir Edward Downes will give

a talk recalling his 45-year association with the Royal Opera, and drawing on the MPRC's unique Covent Garden recordings of such voices as Callas, Domingo and Sutherland. The talk launches the centre's new "National Access" programme: a big push to bring its recordings to wider attention. There will, for instance, be MPRC sessions every afternoon at next month's Edinburgh Festival; classic archive recordings from the festival's early years will be played.

However, there is a cloud on the horizon. The MPRC has received one-off lottery grants



Domingo and Callas:
unique Garden recordings

to cover renewal of its equipment and CD transfers of its recordings. It also gets support from the Musicians' Union, the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society and the Corporation of London. But a vital annual sponsorship from Sony ends this year, and unless another sponsor comes forward the MPRC's activities will be much curtailed.

In corporate terms an annual sponsorship of, say, £15,000 is tiny: probably what a Formula One team spends on oil rags during one Grand Prix. But to save a musical heritage it would be a lifeline. Who will be far-sighted enough to pick up the tab?

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Our ostrich MPs and the constitution

Britain cannot muddle through any longer, says Peter Riddell

British politicians are remarkably casual about the constitution. Of course, MPs like to strike attitudes, to denounce some action as unconstitutional if it is against their political interests. But most are unwilling to think in constitutional terms, to look at the big picture. At present we have the paradox that far-reaching, and probably irreversible, changes are being proposed, but there is no serious debate about how they relate to each other.

This lady would be inconceivable in most other democracies and is because we do not have a formal written constitution. As Ferdinand Mount, that most level-headed of constitutional writers, has argued, "we have deceived ourselves into thinking that a preference for pragmatism, for muddling through, is the age-old British way of doing things, when in fact it has really grown up only during the past 100 years and is a symptom of decadence rather than continuity". This has produced woolly thinking by leading politicians in both main parties.

The Blair Government prefers a piecemeal approach. Measures have been put forward — on Scottish and Welsh devolution, on an elected authority and Mayor for London, on freedom of information, on incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, on reform of the procedures of the House of Commons, on removing the voting rights of hereditary peers — as if they had no connection with each other. Tony Blair takes a minimalist view. He did not make one major speech, or hold any national press conference, on constitutional reform during the election. His advisers believe that English voters are not very interested in these issues, and he does not want constitutional bills to unbalance his programme.

While politically convenient, this approach is not sustainable. It is impossible to look at measures in isolation. The proposals for a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh may have been devised by Scottish politicians with little thought for the rest of the UK, but there are still major consequences for Scottish and English MPs at Westminster — most of which were fully discussed a century ago in the debate over Irish Home Rule.

Similarly, incorporation of the European Convention means that judges will decide whether laws passed by Parliament are consistent with it — as they already have to decide whether British laws are consistent with European ones. Lord Irvine of Lairg warned last year, before he became Lord Chancellor, of the dangers of the judiciary appearing to invade the legislature's turf. On Friday, he argued that incorporation must not disturb the supremacy of Parliament. Ministers favour the New Zealand approach, where the courts make a declaration about whether a law is consistent with the bill of rights, but the remedy is in the hands of Parliament. Even this form of incorporation

would still put judges in a more exposed political position.

The devolution proposals — and the bill on a pre-legislative referendum now going through the Lords — raise questions about how constitutional changes are considered. Is the referendum a mere pragmatic device to ease passage of the later substantive proposals? Or should there be some formal mechanism requiring referendums with certain types of constitutional change, as in much of Europe? Many countries have a system of entrenchment to protect against changes being pushed through by a simple majority of the main elected chamber.

Should there be a special role for the House of Lords in considering constitutional Bills? The only measure the Lords can now block absolutely, as opposed to delay for one session, is a Bill to extend the life of a Parliament. If hereditary peers are removed from the Lords, the reformed House might believe it has greater authority to challenge the Commons. The real issue is less the composition of the Lords than its powers in relation to the Commons.

At present, a Commons committee is busy considering proposals for modernising procedure. Initially, how legislation is considered. But there has been no broader debate about the role of the Commons, about how far the legislature exists merely to implement the plans of a government with a majority, or how far the Commons should seek to scrutinise and improve bills.

Few of these questions are being publicly addressed by ministers or by their Opposition shadows. The Tories have opted for a largely negative approach, being content just to denounce. This reflects the paucity of Conservative thinking on the constitution during the party's years in office. While much changed in the administration and delivery of public services, ministers behaved as if everything was all right provided they were in charge. They questioned the legitimacy of other institutions.

The Tories now need to start thinking creatively about the constitution. After all, a good Tory should believe in checks and balances, in pluralism and in diversity. That means reviving local government and considering formal constitutional entrenchment via a bill of rights. Moreover, as Sir Leon Brittan argued at the weekend, "a knee-jerk reaction against devolution of any kind would ignore the lesson forced on us by the voters of Scotland and Wales". The Tories did consider such options during the 1970s, before they were cowed off by the complacency of office.

Constitutional reform is happening. We are moving from being subjects to becoming citizens with defined rights. The Tories should aim to be part of the debate about the emergence of a more formal constitution. They should remember that ultras and last-ditchers never win.

If a new theory about "mad cow disease" is right, the cattle cull was a huge waste of time and money

Is BSE science's greatest blunder?

Is BSE an infectious disease? Last Wednesday I attended an inaugural lecture at King's College London, given by Professor Alan Ebringer. He is the professor of immunology at King's and is an authority on autoimmune diseases: his theories have on occasion been the subject of scientific controversy. In the inaugural lecture he outlined his new theory of the causation of "mad cow" disease. If he is right, there is no risk of a human epidemic, no question of an infectious agent from mad cows crossing the species barrier, no need for the European ban on British beef, and no need for the cull. If he is right, there has been a multi-billion-pound blunder.

Obviously I am in no position to judge whether he is right or not. Yet when a professor of immunology, with a substantial research record behind him, puts forward a new theory about the causation of a particular disease, the public has to take it seriously. I am not myself sure that his new theory answers all the questions, but then the existing theory does not do so either.

Professor Ebringer has come to believe that BSE is not a so-called "prion" disease; indeed, he does not accept that prion diseases exist at all. He thinks the evidence points to BSE being an autoimmune disease, ultimately caused by a bacterial infection, in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. He advanced this theory in the lecture and in an article in the June issue of *Immunology News*.

There are a number of human autoimmune diseases which are indeed associated with an original bacterial infection. In simple terms, the body is infected by bacteria which share molecular sequences with particular human tissues. The immune system attacks these bacteria, but it subsequently fails to distinguish between them and the tissues which they resemble. The result is like a

failure of aircraft identification leading to "friendly fire". The friendly aircraft has a similar profile to enemy aircraft, so it is fired on as well.

The classic example of such an autoimmune disease following a bacterial infection is rheumatic fever. An infection by the *Streptococcus* organism, often in the throat, leads to the development of anti-streptococcal antibodies. These bind to cardiac tissue and cause inflammation, which damages the heart. This condition is now uncommon because of the widespread use of antibiotics against the original infection, but it was quite common before antibiotics were invented. It caused, for instance, the economist John Maynard Keynes's cardiac problems.

Professor Ebringer's research has helped to establish that two other major diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, have a similar character; they also result from this molecular mimicry. The microbe *Proteus mirabilis* is the causative agent in rheumatoid arthritis, and *Klebsiella* in ankylosing spondylitis. In both diseases, antibodies to these microbes are found in the majority of patients, although they are much rarer in the general population. These are both very widespread diseases: ankylosing spondylitis affects about a quarter of a million people in Britain and rheumatoid arthritis about a million.

How strong a case does Professor Ebringer have for suggesting that BSE might be another of these

diseases of the immune system? He does show, first of all, that the characteristic spongiform deterioration of the brain had already been observed in earlier laboratory cases of experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE), which cannot possibly be associated with the BSE epidemic. There is a recorded case in rabbits dating from 1969 and in guinea pigs from 1974. Both are illustrated with contemporary photographs of the spongiform brains.

Professor Ebringer has found three

common bacteria in the faeces of cattle which mimic molecules in the brain tissues of cows. They are *Aerobacter*, *Agrobacterium* and *Ruminococcus*. Preliminary studies indicate that the sera of BSE-infected cattle contain antibodies against *Aerobacter*. He agrees that the BSE epidemic in cattle followed the changes in the rendering of supplementary feed which occurred around 1982. These feeds contained "green offal" which included faecal material from slaughtered animals. Ingestion of such material would undoubtedly have spread infection by these organisms. Before 1982 these bacteria

would have been killed by the higher temperatures of the earlier system of preparing feed.

BSE does, therefore, have the same pattern as an autoimmune disease, whether or not that is the correct explanation for it. Bacteria which mimic the nervous tissue of cattle have been identified; the change in feeding did result in a much higher degree of exposure to them; BSE-infected cattle have, in fact, developed antibodies to at least one of these bacteria; the tissues which show damage in BSE are the ones which the bacteria mimic. The question is whether this damage is done by a prion agent, which cannot be detected by electron microscopy, cannot be grown in the laboratory and is supposed to be self-replicating by a method otherwise unknown to molecular biology. There may well be difficulties in the autoimmune theory of BSE, but there are also difficulties in the prion theory, which have prevented it winning universal acceptance.

The example of SCID (severe combined immune deficiency) mice is interesting. These mice are bred for experimental purposes with deficient immune systems. They can catch almost any disease because they have no natural resistance, and they have to be kept in a sterile atmosphere. Yet so far no one has been able to infect them with BSE. Of course, if BSE is an autoimmune disease, mice without an immune system cannot be harmed by it: no immune system, no

autoimmune disease. These mice do, however, have normal prions; if this really is a prion disease, there is no obvious reason why these mice should not catch it.

At the end of his paper, Professor Ebringer reaches quite moderate conclusions. "The autoimmune theory predicts that no CJD epidemic is expected since humans do not consume 'green offal' material, and the cattle cull is unnecessary since the disease is an autoimmune disorder resembling chronic EAE. The 'prion' hypothesis predicts that a CJD epidemic is expected in the human population and extensive culling of cattle is required to destroy the animals infected by 'prions'. Clearly the two theories give different predictions and experimental studies should be carried out to distinguish between these two models."

This must be right. Without further experimental studies, no body, layman or scientist can be sure which theory is correct. If indeed either is, there is bound to be strong resistance to the autoimmune theory, even if it should be correct. It would mean that major scientific bodies had been seriously mistaken, and that the consequences had been disastrous official policy. That makes it all the more important that the new theory should be thoroughly investigated.

I came away from the lecture more willing to eat a steak than when I went in, but not foolish enough to imagine that any layman could make an informed judgement. I was convinced that Professor Ebringer had made out a prima facie case. Science advances by testing different theories. In terms of orthodox microbiology, the autoimmune theory requires a smaller leap of faith than the prion theory. Both need the experimental verification which Professor Ebringer has called for. The public needs to be sure that the enormously expensive policies on BSE are supported by the best scientific evidence.

Why schools must do better

Tony Blair says his Government will show zero tolerance for classroom failure

Three years ago, in my first week as Leader of the Opposition, my first press conference was about education. I said then that education was central to my ambitions for Britain, and I vowed that quality of teaching and learning would be at the heart of Labour's agenda for government.

Since I stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street on May 2 and said "it is time now to do", the Government has placed education first. Improvement teams are going into failing schools. Hacking LEAs has been opened up to Ofsted, the schools inspectorate. And last week in the Budget, we announced major new funding of £1.3 billion for capital investment as well as £1 billion of revenue spending. Today we take a major step towards the other side of the bargain — reforming our school system so every penny is well used.

There are many good schools in Britain, but not enough; many good teachers, but not enough; many well-educated children, but not enough. After primary school, more than 40 per cent of children have not reached the expected standard in English and Maths. At GCSE, two thirds of 16-year-olds do not achieve a grade C in Maths or English. Ofsted estimates that 2 to 3 per cent of schools are failing, one in ten has a serious weakness, and a further third are not as good as they should be.

Today's White Paper, "Excellence in Schools", is founded on six principles. The first is to put education at the heart of government. I have said that my three priorities for government are education, education and education. I mean it. Unless we get our education system right, our children will not be prosperous and our country will not be just. Just as



The Prime Minister on a pre-election school visit. Today's White Paper details Labour's education plans

during the 1980s a spirit of enterprise was needed for the economy to become more competitive, so now an improvement in educational standards is a prerequisite for Britain's success as we prepare to enter the new millennium.

This is why education throughout life is central to our economic and social policy. Skills are the key to our ambitious Welfare to Work programme for the young and long-term unemployed, designed to reduce the bills and misery of mass unemployment. Meanwhile, the University for Industry will create new opportunities for people in work.

Secondly, we will design our system to benefit the many, not the few. That is the justification for modernising the comprehensive principle to take account of children's different abilities without returning to the failed 11-plus, which meant that 80 per cent of our children were consigned to secondary moderns. Children do have different talents and different abilities and we should

recognise them, stretching children to progress as far and as fast as they can. We therefore favour setting, rather than mixed-ability teaching, in comprehensive schools, with accelerated learning for the most able. And we support, too, the development of specialist schools — focusing on languages, technology, sports or arts — helping children with interest and talent, but also acting as a resource for all pupils in an area.

Thirdly, we say that standards matter more than structures. The last government tried to use structural reforms to raise standards. They failed because what counts is what goes on in the classroom — above all the skill of the teacher, the way they teach and how they are supported.

For example, there is a proven best practice for the teaching of literacy and numeracy, based on the use of phonics to teach children words and whole-class teaching for Maths. To meet our targets of 80 per cent of 11-

year-olds reaching the expected standard in English, and 75 per cent in Maths, a national programme will direct the training of existing teachers and the spreading of best practice. Our literacy and numeracy initiatives will have first call on resources.

Similarly, we know that a head teacher is the key to a successful school. So we will ensure that every new head displays the necessary skills and is qualified to be a head teacher, and we will set up new fast-track procedures to identify heads of the future.

Fourthly, intervention should be directed at what is wrong, not what is working well. Where there is success, let us celebrate it. Where teachers are excellent, let us give them scope for promotion without leaving the classroom. Schools achieving good results, and improving, will be left to get on with their work.

Government, local and national, should focus on the problems. That requires regular external inspection, to which we are firmly committed,

with rigorous systems for improvement within schools. Inspection will take place at least once every six years, but more often for schools shown to be underperforming. Every school will have clear targets based on information about the progress of similar schools, national targets and recent inspection evidence. Where there are problems, action will be fast and focused.

Fifthly, there will be zero tolerance of failure. Children have only one chance. That is why we are seeking to draw up a revised code to ensure that poor teachers are dealt with more quickly. It is why we will establish Education Action Zones — to encourage local initiative where traditional structures have not delivered. It is why we will order a "fresh start" — closure or the reopening of the school under new management — where schools have been unable to improve.

Zero tolerance of failure applies to local education authorities, too. Their role is to support, not to control. Every LEA will produce an Education Development Plan, detailing its contribution to raising standards, and agreed with central government. Then, all LEAs will be inspected by Ofsted. Where failure is deep-seated, the relevant powers of the local authority will be suspended and improvement teams sent in.

Sixthly, we are committed to work in partnership with all those able to help us to raise standards. Government can lead, but there is a shared responsibility on teachers, parents, governors, LEAs, churches and businesses to help us to deliver. Home-school contracts between schools and parents will detail the responsibilities of each. We will use lottery money to support after-school clubs. And we will develop the use of information technology through a public-private partnership to create a new National Grid for Learning.

I see the Government's education crusade as something in which we all have a stake, and in which we all have a part to play. Get it right, and our children will learn more and earn more. The world of learning is the passport to fulfilment in the 21st century, and all our children must have that passport.

Chelsea whirl

LIKE many a Henry James heroine before her, Chelsea Clinton, the daughter of the American President, is rounding off her education with a spell in Tuscany. Travelling as the First Teenager, however, is not all baggy shorts. *Rough Guides* and smooth-talking men called Gianni. Over the weekend, Miss Clinton's bodyguards are alleged to have hospitalised two photographers who tried to snap her dancing at a Florentine nightclub.



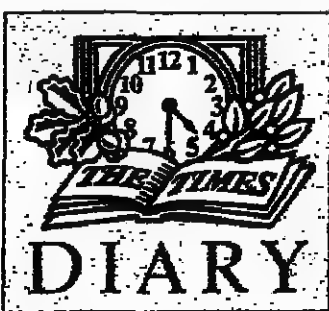
Miss Clinton and bar owner Leo

The incident occurred on July 4, American Independence Day. Miss Clinton, who left school this summer and starts at Stanford University in the autumn, had tried to see Florence and the surrounding countryside incognito. Wearing jeans, a black T-shirt and sandals, she spent an afternoon wandering around the Piazza della Signoria and gazing at the Michelangelos outside the Palazzo Vecchio. With her were her schoolfriend Nikki Davidson and two bodyguards.

In the evening, Miss Clinton had supper in the swish Harry's Bar, where she ate spaghetti al dente and tried a Bellini cocktail, a mixture of champagne and peach juice. She even posed for a photograph with the bar's owner, Leo Vadorini.

She then went to the famed disco. As she danced to the Europop, her bodyguards noticed the snappers beside the dancefloor. They strode over and in the ensuing dust-up, the photographers allege they were punched.

Miss Clinton has now joined her parents aboard the King of Spain's yacht off Mallorca, while the



paparazzi consult their lawyers.

● Tonight sees an extraordinary assembly at Church House in Westminster as the Fabian Society, once a shelter for the last of Labour's hair shirt wearers, hosts a reception in honour of the Adam Smith Institute, the all-privatising, all-Thatcherite think-tank. It will be a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas, say the modernising Fabians. Those who still remember the words to The Red Flag can just stare into their mugs and weep.

Bell rung

LITTLE more than a year after he boarded Sir Tim Bell's public rela-

tions outfit, Patrick Jephson, the former private secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, has left the company to set up his own business.



"If you want to bring your hairdresser on holiday, Camilla, count me out"

Yesterday Jephson said that, with eight years of Royal Household experience and 15 months with Sir Tim on his CV, it was time to strike out on his own.

● Style point: James Bond will be wearing a midnight blue rather than a black dinner suit for his next outing. The suit, which will be worn by Pierce Brosnan in Tomorrow Never Dies and costs £1,800, is to be made by the Italian firm Brioni. "It is the first time Bond has not worn a black tuxedo," says Colin Woodhead, Brioni's tuxedo specialist. He has no time for the accusation that he is dressing up Bond to look like a Variety Club host. "The suit is so dark, audiences may not even notice."

Poetry please

SAMUEL Taylor Coleridge, the poet, is to receive the movie treatment from Julien Temple and Joe Strummer, the former lead singer with The Clash. Temple was the pre-eminent pop video maker of the early 1980s who went on to make films such as *The Great Rock and Roll Swindle*, about the Sex Pistols, and the underrated *Absolute Beginners*, starring Patsy Kensit.



Coleridge is to be portrayed on film — with music by Strummer

Strummer will write the score. Besides being a fellow Coleridge nut, Strummer is a neighbour of Temple's in Somerset. The products of their joint collaboration may not be Regius professorship stuff. "Coleridge was the first junkie," says Temple. "He was the original Keith Richards, the perfect subject for a movie."

● Friends of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, street poet and "It Girl", are worried that her hectic schedule of boutique openings is



taking its toll. Gone is the Verbiage glow with which she entered the nation's life. At the launch of Philip Hoare's book *Wilde's Last Stand* at the end of last week, she masked her obvious exhaustion with talk of a plan to write a film script based on her favourite book, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, but set in modern-day West London. Naturally it will tell the story of a young, delicate yet ultimately tragic party girl.



MENACE IN MADRID

An unnecessary blurring at Nato's boundaries of freedom

The leaders of the 20th century's most successful military alliance descend on Madrid tomorrow for a fateful summit. Agreement on two momentous decisions, a new military structure for Nato and the early enlargement of the alliance, is claimed by the Clinton Administration to be indispensable to the forging of a "peaceful and undivided" post-Cold War Europe. But rarely have the allies appeared less of one mind; and in Washington itself, the Clinton-Albright strategy for Nato is under fire from such experienced and influential critics as George Kennan, Paul Nitze, Sam Nunn and Susan Eisenhower.

So far nothing is settled. There is disagreement about who should join, about Europe's weight in Nato's new command structures and about what sort of alliance Nato should become. France and America lead opposing camps; and by publicly declaring last month that the US is now prepared to include only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in the first round of Nato enlargement in 1999, the Clinton Administration ensured that this will be a needlessly acrimonious summit.

If American tactlessness were the only problem, there would be little novelty here, and still less cause for alarm. Nato is no stranger to periodic crises; and out of anxiety that the US might otherwise scale down its commitment to European security, the allies have usually suppressed their irritation at heavy-footed US diplomacy and fallen into line. On enlargement, if not on Nato's military structure, that is also the most likely outcome at Madrid. But this time, America will have misused its power in pursuit of an ill-judged strategy, whose most obvious principal effect has been not only to foment division in Central and Eastern Europe but to place a question mark over the future credibility of Nato.

Damage limitation is now the name of the game; and the most important task by far is to understand that a stable, democratic Russia at ease within its shrunken post-imperial frontiers is the grand strategic prize

without which Europe can never be durably secure. The political risks may be somewhat diminished by the deal concluded in May, which at least potentially meets Washington's pledge to include Russia in "a security circle for all of Europe". But it will take more than a piece of legally non-binding paper to convince Russians that Nato enlargement is not a stab in the back.

Instead, the alliance seems destined to spend much of the next two years arguing about who is going to pay for integrating Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into Nato. This dispute could bring about the worst possible outcome, a decision to expand which was then stymied by the US Senate. A likely result is that little money will be invested in strengthening the new members' military capabilities. They will be second-class Nato members, and seen to be such — particularly as in its efforts to assuage Russia, Nato has no plans to deploy substantial Nato forces there after 1999.

The post-enlargement Nato map makes even less military than political sense. If America has its way at Madrid, Romania — the only militarily serious applicant besides Poland — will be excluded and Nato will not even have a common frontier. Hungary will be a blob in the middle of no man's land. Post-Madrid, Nato will be under fresh pressure to respond to the anxieties and resentments that an enlargement limited to three not particularly insecure countries generate in the lands beyond what Mrs Albright called "freedom's boundaries".

The Western governments' first idea, the Nato Partnerships for Peace, was also their best; it was a non-confrontational way of anchoring not only Central and Eastern Europe but Russia itself to the West. Instead of ending the division of Europe at Madrid, Nato will merely shift the dividing lines. If there is indeed a security vacuum, Madrid will provide no solution. Nato must live with the consequences of this strategic muddle of its own making; but it would be better able to do so if, in the process, it had not also enfeebled itself.

THE ONLY OPTION

The IRA cannot dictate on marches, or political progress

Taken late, after every opportunity for compromise had been exhausted, the decision to allow *Portadown's Orangemen* to march their traditional route was the right one. Penning the Roman Catholic residents of the Garvaghy Road behind police lines while the march went past will have looked brutal from a distance, but Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was acting in the best interests of Northern Ireland's nationalists. To have attempted to prevent the march would have caused the fragile loyalist ceasefire to collapse and ignited horrendous violence as well as wider civil disorder.

It would also have sent a signal to the democratic majority that concerned republican activism can force the State to deny citizens traditional liberties. Now the security forces will face a calculated attempt by the IRA to prove that republicans are capable of outdoing any mayhem of which loyalists might have been capable. The IRA will attempt to undermine the basis of Mr Flanagan's judgment by proving that it is the cost of defying republican demands which is unsustainable. It will require resolution on the ground and strength in Stormont if the threat is to be properly met.

That the future of the peace process and the stability of more than a million British citizens should hinge on a dispute over a few hundred yards of road may seem incomprehensible when viewed from Whitehall. That rubber bullets should be fired above the heads of rioters in a provincial village will dismay television audiences who find it hard to imagine that this is the United Kingdom. Yet to give way to despair, or blame the men who march, is to fall into a trap carefully laid by the IRA.

Ulster's Unionist majority has, in the last

twenty-five years, seen its British identity eroded; the Union made a matter for negotiation rather than pride, and successive Governments shift position to accommodate republican violence. A people whose traditions are questioned clings to symbols, and Ulster's Unionists have rallied under the Orange banner to affirm their identity. Genuine liberals should as readily understand why Orangemen parade as they appreciate why there are marches to affirm Gay Pride or defend country sports.

That understanding should be all the stronger given the attempts by republicans to turn those marches into confrontations. The IRA, recognising how curious the marching season looks across the Irish Sea, has tried to disrupt these displays by organising opposition and refusing to contemplate compromise. Early attempts by *Portadown's Orangemen* to find an accommodation were comprehensively rebuffed. Efforts to reach a late compromise were undermined by the clumsy intervention of the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, who asked for the march to be stopped. As his predecessor John Bruton implied, without his long-distance loud-hailing there might have been a chance for the Orangemen to waive the right to walk, their dignity intact.

Unionists may, in their insecurity, occasionally appear inflexible. Republicans, however, are absolutely intransigent. The IRA hoped that a blank refusal to accept any march might lead to a ban and a loyalist backlash. Denied that, republican strategists will exact revenge. Their aim is to make Ulster ungovernable. With the prospect of escalating IRA violence a settlement will seem further away than ever. But the search for one, in defiance of the IRA, is, like the decision on the march, the only option.

EARTH INVADES MARS

Tracks in the dust mark the exploration of the Red Planet

Like a child's radio-controlled model car, Sojourner has emerged from *Pathfinder's* airbag cocoon, rolled down a miniature ramp and is now trundling across the red dust of Mars. After an anxious start, scientists at Pasadena have fixed a communications glitch and the little vehicle is now sending valuable data back to Earth, some 309 million miles away. The \$266 million project is working perfectly. The rover has already begun analysing rocks and soil, taken some spectacular pictures of the boulders, peaks and arid landscape in Ares Vallis, and is leaving the first traces of the invasion from another planet — miniature tyre marks — in the dust as it crawls about. The world is intrigued. The *Pathfinder* flight team says it is "in red heaven".

The *Pathfinder* mission has rekindled American interest in the pioneering exploration of the universe by the country's scientists and engineers — a mission that has been given added piquancy by the recent discovery of carbonate formations in a meteorite and the suggestion that Mars may once have supported life. Sojourner is unlikely to take conclusive pictures or analyse enough soil samples to prove the theory that the planet once contained water; scientists will have to wait until the arrival of other probes

to see what is locked beneath the icecaps. But pictures from the miniature camera and chemical analysis from the on-board laboratory will add to human understanding.

Pathfinder will be followed by four more landing craft and five orbiting space vehicles over the next eight years, culminating in a landing by a robotic craft that will collect samples and return them to Earth for microscopic examination. There is talk of a manned mission within the next 50 years.

Whatever our admiration for the engineering precision, advanced rocketry and ingenious design of this latest mission, we Earthlings should not forget that the real pioneering work on Mars was done 20 years ago. The Viking missions revealed for the first time a blood-red vista on the mysterious planet, and even managed to scoop up handfuls of Martian dust for chemical and biological experiment. Images fade from the public mind, however. *Pathfinder* has reminded America and the world that Mars, one of Earth's nearest neighbours, still holds mysteries that excite not only astronomers but all who contemplate the vastness of existence. Far out in the remoteness of space we can now see a silent, desolate planet, whose history and whose fate may tell us something of our own.

Keeping a watch on Albanian polls

From Mr Mark Almond

Sir, The Albanian Socialist Party may have won the parliamentary elections, but your leader, "Transition in Tirana" (July 3), may be unduly confident that the referendum on the restoration of the monarchy was lost.

As an election observer I was struck by the unexpected strength of support for King Leka. On election day Socialist Party observers regularly commented that Leka had drawn larger crowds ("too large" one commented in Kruje) than had been expected. Now I am suspicious of the show final tallying of the referendum votes, which earlier took only 30 minutes to count in polling stations.

Where I observed the vote, the King lost the referendum, but only by ten votes (230-240) in a strongly Socialist poll. Yet it was striking how many voters chose the Socialist candidate in the first-past-the-post part of the parliamentary election but opted for the monarchist Legality Party in the PR poll.

Leka's strong poll was unexpected but in talking to Albanians, both Democrat and Socialist, I found that evidence why non-traditional monarchists might have voted "yes" was common: Socialists saw a vote for Leka as a way of removing President Berisha if his party won the parliamentary elections; Democrats hoped that Leka's restoration would act as a backdrop against the complete transfer of power to the ex-Communists if they won.

Let us hope that referendum fraud is not the reason for Leka's defeat.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ALMOND,
Oriel College, Oxford,
July 5.

European Parliament

From Mr Brendan Donnelly, MEP for Sussex South and Crawley (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, In his article of July 1, "We demand a voice in Amsterdam", Mr Michael Howard argues that new powers for the European Parliament "mean fewer powers for Westminster" (Letters, July 5).

If by "Westminster" Mr Howard means the House of Commons, I respectfully beg to differ. The European Parliament and national parliaments operate in parallel with each other, not in competition.

If new powers for the European Parliament occur at the expense of another body, that body is pre-eminently the Council of Ministers, at which national ministers meet to adopt European legislation. The capacity of national parliaments to influence and monitor the Council is always limited, both practically and because national governments will reasonably demand from the domestic parliaments which support them some room for manoeuvre and negotiation in the Council.

The scope for national parliamentary influence is doubly reduced in cases when the Council vote by qualified majority, since it is then impossible for an individual national parliament to determine the outcome in the Council.

In fact, the influence that an individual national parliament can exercise on the Council is scarcely affected by an increase, or reduction, in the powers of the European Parliament.

Greater powers for the European Parliament make the European Union a more democratic place. If that extra power is at the expense of national ministers and national civil servants, who are currently subject to only limited Parliamentary scrutiny, so be it.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDAN DONNELLY,
72 High Street,
Brighton, East Sussex,
July 5.

From Mr G. W. Clark

Sir, Members of the European Parliament continue to claim that they are the democratic element in the European Union. But how seriously do they carry out their duties "to ensure democratic control over the running of the Union" (quote from their latest glossy pamphlet, *The European Union and its Parliament*)?

In the week before the Amsterdam Summit they had a big debate in Strasbourg about the programme to be considered by the Council of Ministers. They voted 298 to 76, with 86 recorded abstentions, for a resolution which stated that "no enlargement negotiations should be concluded in practice before the necessary institutional reforms have been introduced".

Here was the opportunity for the democratic voices to sound out loud and clear.

But the figures show (allowing for the neutrality of the president or speaker) that 165 MEPs either did not bother to go to Strasbourg, or had insufficient interest in the future of the Union to bother to vote.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE CLARK,
39 Highfield Road,
Chislehurst, Kent,
July 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-752-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Delicate diplomacy in Hong Kong

From Mr Andrew Stuart

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("The arrogance of age", July 3), damns all those who attended the swearing-in of the Provisional Legislative Council in Hong Kong. In principle I agree but he is unfair to the ex-governors and particularly to Lord Maclehoze.

Murray Maclehoze took over as Governor in 1971, soon after the Cultural Revolution in China. Anyone who thinks that, in the chaotic period following Mao's death, Maclehoze could nevertheless have introduced democracy in Hong Kong, has no sense of history or of military reality.

He succeeded a succession of particularly dim colonialists, and as a former Principal Private Secretary in the Foreign Office, he was the first really to know how to pull the levers of power in Whitehall. He used that power ruthlessly to promote the interests of Hong Kong. He battled for Hong Kong against Europe, sometimes even against Britain. In matters like toilets, air-traffic rights, financial control, in defence of Hong Kong laws and customs, he was sometimes overbearing but always diligent. Internally, his administration tackled the problems of rehousing myriad refugees from China, of corruption and of drugs.

As head of the Foreign Office Hong Kong department at the time, I sometimes had to absorb Murray's wrath, but I never ceased to admire his devotion to Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUART
(Head of Hong Kong and Indian Ocean Department, FCO, 1972-75),
Long Hall,
North Street, Wareham, Dorset,
July 3.

From Mrs Helen Sasson

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is severely critical of Sir Edward Heath, Lord Howe and Michael Heseltine for not joining the official government boycott and attending the swearing-in of the new, non-democratic provisional Hong Kong legislature.

Surely the presence of these "grandees" at this ceremony, for their own

varying reasons, best demonstrates what true democracy is really about, or would Lord Rees-Mogg wish all British politicians to speak with one voice?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN SASSON,
11 Alexander Place, SW7,
July 3.

From Sir Percy Cradock

Sir, Simon Jenkins' article, "Sealed with a golden kiss", July 2) has got his facts on Hong Kong badly wrong.

The criticism of Chris Patten is not because he helped democracy in the colony, but because he harmed it. By making unilateral electoral changes in disregard of repeated and precise Chinese warnings, he ensured that Hong Kong passed under Chinese rule with less democracy and less protection than would have otherwise been the case. Before he arrived there was agreement with China on a through-train for an elected legislature. Instead, after five angry years, Hong Kong now has a China-appointed body.

The Jenkins article dodges this issue and leaves the unworthy impression that officials opposed democracy. In fact they did all they could to advance it in Hong Kong after the Joint Declaration.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY CRADOCK
(Ambassador to Peking, 1978-84;
Foreign policy advisor to the
Prime Minister, 1984-92)
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

From Mr Robert Young

Sir, Now that ceremony and celebration are over is it not time to analyse why the job itself, over 150 years of political administration, went so well? The story is that HK was one of the economic miracles of these times. So what is preventing it being like that here when we did it there?

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT W. YOUNG,
14 Calabria Road, N5,
al-rhkn@btinternet.co.uk
July 3.

Where does libel law go from here?

From Mr Tim Hardy

Sir, Mr Ian McBride, of Granada Television ("The case for reform of the libel laws", Media and Marketing, June 25) argues from the fall of the Aikens libel action that the burden of proof in libel cases should be switched from the defendant to the plaintiff. This seems to me to be an oversimplification.

As was made clear by the Court of Appeal in the interlocutory skirmishing in the "McLibel" case in 1994, if a defendant has sufficient evidence to suggest that the allegations are justified then the court requires the plaintiffs to disclose all documents they have relevant to proving or disproving those allegations.

Just as bad cases make bad law, to introduce change because of one case would be wrong. Mr McBride admits that the greatest brake on journalists' enthusiasm for publishing stories they are "groping" to put together is the existing law of libel. Long may it remain so. Journalists are under such pressure to create news that all too often they fail to undertake the appropriate checks, knowing that the target of their criticism is unlikely to sue because of the cost, risk and delay. To release the brake would encourage this and vastly increase the number of libel cases clogging our courts.

Rather than suggest our libel laws need reform, the Aikens trial showed just how rigorous our system is. It is no coincidence that the UK broadsheets are amongst the most highly respected around the world.

Yours faithfully,
TIM HARDY (Head of Litigation),
Cameron McKenna (solicitors),
Sceptre Court, 40 Tower Hill, EC3,
June 27.

Divided Ireland

From Dr Richard Barrett

Sir, Mr J. S. Anderson's assertion (letter, July 5) that the Republic of Ireland constitutes a "Roman Catholic theocratic state" is a graphic example of the kind of misinformation that fuels the fires of sectarian hatred (other letters, July 3 and 4).

The Constitution of the Republic, at article 44, simply recognises the religious affiliation of the majority of the population.

Such a recognition does not amount to the establishment of a Church required to justify the term "theocracy". Indeed, the only State in these isles which does establish a specific Church is Britain. Mr Anderson should move out of the glass house in which he is citizen if he wishes to throw around the charge of theocracy.

In addition, it is worth pointing out that the tribal conflict in Northern Ireland has long since moved on from the simplistic schema found in Mr Anderson's letter — the divide is not Catholic-Protestant but Nationalist-Unionist, as one will find Catholics on both sides of the House, as it were.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARRETT,
Royal Overseas League,
Overseas House,
Park Place, SW1,
July 5.

From Ms Helen Searls

Sir, I agree with Ian McBride that it is high time that the libel laws were reformed but I feel that Mr McBride's recommendations do not go far enough.

In the wake of the "McLibel" trial it is clear that a qualified privilege defence should not only be extended to the reporting of public officials. Public corporations, too, should face the same restrictions.

In fact, as someone whose small magazine faces a crippling libel action from ITN — a corporation that has frequent access to three national TV channels — I believe that the only fair reform would be to extend qualified privilege to the reporting of all those in the public eye.

Public figures (individuals and corporations) have the capacity to mould and shape public opinion. The McDonald's Corporation, for instance, has the capacity to tell the whole world about how wonderful its food products are through advertising. Similarly, ITN has the capacity to answer its critics through its broadcasts.

When public figures have such influence it is only right that they are open to more vigorous criticism than the rest of us. The "public right to know" that Mr McBride discusses should also apply to all those who are in a position of influence and responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN SEARLS
(Legal co-ordinator,
LM Magazine),
91 Bathurst Gardens,
Kensal Rise, NW10,
helensearls@easynet.co.uk
June 25.

Open door at No 10

From Baroness Miller of Hendon

Sir, You refer today to "a new open-door policy" for No 10 and to Mrs Blair "setting the trend today by opening the house and gardens to a group of schoolchildren".

When Mrs Blair announced her intentions early last month, I elicited confirmation in replies to written questions to the Lord Privy Seal and the Minister of State, DTI, that facilities for charitable and other non-political good causes were provided by the previous occupiers of both No 10 and No 11 on numerous occasions. They were also provided by Margaret Thatcher, Sir Edward Heath, Audrey Callaghan and Gillian Clarke, and they may very well have also been provided by their predecessors as well.

The difference is that they did it quietly and unobtrusively and without trying to make personal or political capital out of it.

Perhaps a glance at I Corinthians xiii. 4 would be in order: "... charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up".

Yours faithfully,
MILLER OF HENDON,
House of Lords,
July 2.

Coded message in Hebrew texts

From Mr Paul White

Sir, How interesting to find Bernard Levin confronted by a phenomenon which he cannot explain and which, if true, fundamentally challenges his world view ("And the Word was driven", review of *The Bible Code*, by Michael Drosnin, Directory, June 21). The phenomenon in question is that of equidistant letter sequences (ELS) in the Hebrew Old Testament. Basically, the claim is that these ancient Hebrew texts contain precise coded details relating to people and events which would take place thousands of years after they were written.

Such a claim must surely be greeted with scepticism by any reasonable person. Yet Mr Levin seems unwilling to consider any evidence that backs up the claim. Instead, he is reduced to name-calling.

"I have no interest in defending Drosnin's book, which lays itself open to the charge of sensationalism. Nevertheless, the phenomenon he describes deserves exposure to a wide audience. At the very least it is a challenging puzzle, and one which has received serious attention in publications such as the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*."

"Drive!" implies unbelief, which is hardly surprising. After all, we are told (Luke xvi. 31) that "if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead". Or, put another way, "There's nought so blind as he who will not see."

Yours faithfully,
PAUL WHITE,
43 Havelock Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
paul.white@virgin.net

Foul weather hits birds

From Dr John Carnie

Sir, British Airways is not the only flying organisation with problems. The thousands of pigeons lost (report, July 2) from the Royal Racing Pigeon Association centenary race from Nantes, were probably sacrificial offerings to the media. Television crews covering the release could not wait as long as the pigeons would have.

I lost nine out of my 11-strong team of "widowhood" cock pigeons. The race controllers appear to have ignored not only the weather forecast but also the technology, such as enroute satellite weather pictures, which is available to the ordinary fancier via the internet.

My own local Warwickshire Federation of Racing Pigeons cancelled their inland race for the weekend because of the weather. But having downloaded Sunday's current weather picture, I listened in disbelief as my organisation, the Midlands National Flying Club, who were controlling the race, liberated the pigeons.

Many of the pigeons reported lost will no doubt home, possibly to race again next year, but this centenary race will go down as a pigeon-fancy public-relations disaster.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CARNIE,
Tollgate Cottage, Nuneaton Road,
Over Whitacre, Warwickshire.
pigeon@easynet.co.uk
July 2.

Fruits of experience?

From Mr Simon Eadon

Sir, Words and sayings pass in and out of fashion. It is proving difficult to find the origin of the currently popular phrase "going pear-shaped", meaning going horribly wrong. What is the opposite of pear-shaped?

Quite why a pear shape should be a symbol of disaster is not obviously apparent. Someone offered me the somewhat sexist explanation that it is the shape that middle-aged women become. This is indeed unfortunate as a woman at work who prides herself on being politically correct uses this phrase more frequently than the men.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON EADON,
26 Whitehall Gardens, W3,
July 6.

Virtual pets

From Mrs Susan M. Barnard

Sir, It is an undisputed fact of life that the task of looking after a domestic pet falls ultimately to mother. This phenomenon now seems (in our household at least) to have progressed beyond all previously known limits.

My ten-year-old son has recently acquired a *Tamagotchi* — a small, egg-shaped electronic device, made in Japan. It has a screen showing a creature that simulates the requirements of a pet (feeding, cleaning, attention, discipline, etc) at the press of a button. If tended properly, the creature flourishes. If neglected, it becomes ill or may even die.

Unfortunately, the span of a normal school day appears to be too long for this creature to be left unattended. As my son is not allowed to take his virtual pet to school, its daytime care has inevitably fallen to me.

Am I alone in this, or have other readers found themselves left holding the electronic baby?

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN M. BARNARD,
4 Egerton Drive,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire,
July 5.

JACK HINTON, VC

Gravely wounded by a rifle bullet in the lower abdomen, Hinton passed, like the rest of his

His first wife died in 1950, and he is survived by his second wife, Molly. There were no children.

Horder was briefly married after the war but the marriage was dissolved in 1957. There were no children, and both the barony and the baronetcy are now extinct.



A high-contrast, black and white portrait of an elderly man. He is wearing a dark, textured hat and a heavy, dark coat. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is dark and indistinct.

en, Chesler Archdeaconry: to be
ultimate adviser (same diocese).

[illegible]